





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2023

https://archive.org/details/centraldistrictc00luth_0

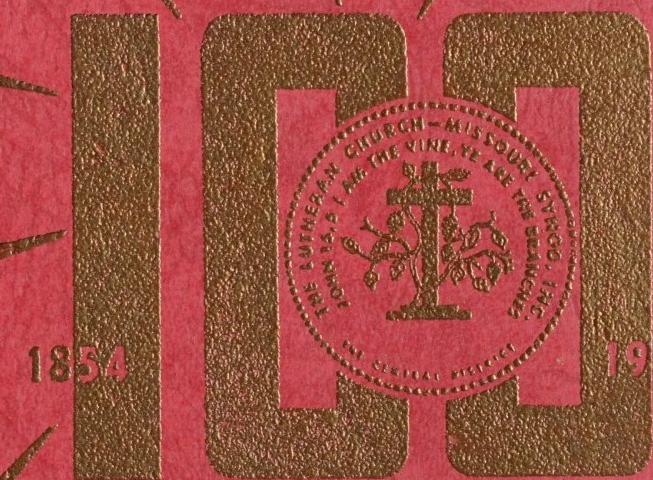


ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



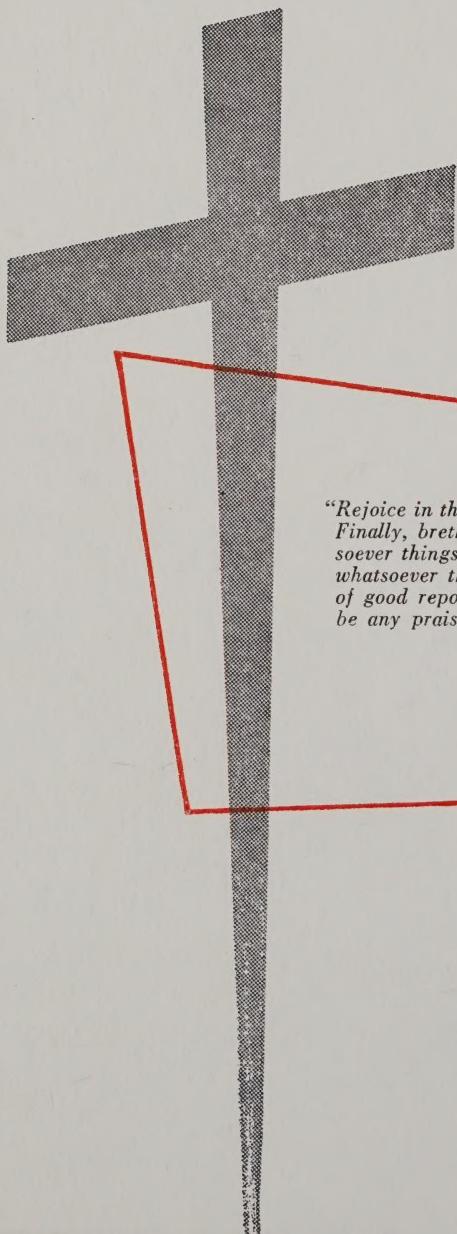
3 1833 06626 3481

GC
929.102
L97CD



A CENTURY OF GROWTH
BY THE GRACE OF GOD

CENTRAL DISTRICT CENTENNIAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD



"Rejoice in the Lord alway; and again I say, Rejoice. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

— Philippians 4:4,8





THE CENTRAL DISTRICT *Centennial* BOOKLET

commemorating
a century of
growth by the
GRACE OF GOD
1854 — 1954
is dedicated to:

*Let children hear the mighty deeds
Which God performed of old,
Which in our younger years we saw,
And which our fathers told.*

*Make unto them His glories known
His works of pow'r and grace;
And we'll convey His wonders down
Through ev'ry rising race.*

THE PRAISE AND GLORY OF ALMIGHTY GOD

Issued this 21st day of June, 1954, on behalf of all members of

THE CENTRAL DISTRICT of the LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD

The Rev. Ottomar Krueger, D.D., President
The Rev. John H. Meyer, D.D., Honorary President
The Rev. Herbert Berner, First Vice President
The Rev. Martin Ilse, Jr., Second Vice President
The Rev. Walter Pasche, Secretary
The Rev. Carl Ahlbrand, Assistant Secretary

The Rev. W. C. Birkner, D.D., Secretary
of Stewardship and Missions
Mr. W. J. Gernand, Supt. of Education
Mr. R. V. Schnabel, Assistant Supt.
Mr. Raymond F. Meyer, Treasurer
Mr. Arthur F. Eickhoff, Financial Treasurer

by the

DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

The Rev. Dr. Walter Herrling, Chairman
Mr. R. V. Schnabel, Secretary
The Rev. E. H. Albers
The Rev. Dr. W. C. Birkner

Mr. W. J. Gernand
Mr. Calo Mahlock
Mr. Raymond Meyer

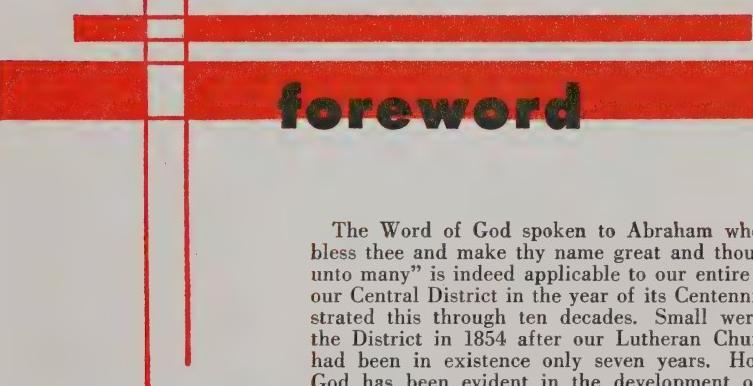
contents

PREFACE—Mr. W. J. Gernand.....	3
FOREWORD—The Rev. President Ottomar Krueger, D.D.....	3
CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF SYNOD—The Rev. President John W. Behnken, D.D.....	4
BIOGRAPHIES OF PRESIDENTS OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT—The Rev. Honorary President John H. Meyer, D.D.....	5
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT: A CENTURY OF GROWTH BY THE GRACE OF GOD—The Rev. Professor John F. Stach, Ph.D.....	10
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS—The Rev. Professor Walter Herrling, Ph.D.....	17
HISTORICAL MISCELLANY OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT—The Rev. Professor Walter Herrling, Ph.D.....	18
PROGRAM OF THE CENTENNIAL SERVICE.....	19
MAP OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT.....	20
MISSIONS—The Rev. W. C. Birkner, D.D.....	22
PARISH EDUCATION—Mr. W. J. Gernand.....	24
YOUTH WORK—The Rev. Edgar P. Schmidt.....	26
STUDENT SERVICE—The Rev. W. C. Birkner, D.D.....	27
STEWARSHIP—The Rev. W. C. Birkner, D.D.....	27
FINANCES AND CHURCH EXTENSION—Mr. Raymond F. Meyer.....	29
PUBLIC RELATIONS—The Rev. Edgar H. Albers.....	30
CONCORDIA COLLEGE, FORT WAYNE—The Rev. President Herbert G. Bredemeier, M.A.....	31
CONCORDIA LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL, FORT WAYNE—Mr. Herbert F. Birkmann, M.A.....	33
CLEVELAND LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL—Mr. E. F. Sagehorn, M.A.....	32
VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY—The Rev. President O. P. Kretzmann, Litt. D.....	33
LUTHERAN DEACONESS ASSOCIATION—The Rev. Arnold F. Krentz, M.S.....	33
LUTHERAN CHILD WELFARE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA—The Rev. Theo. W. Mikolon	34
LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF OHIO—The Rev. Theo. C. Meibohm.....	34
FORT WAYNE LUTHERAN HOSPITAL—The Rev. Fred P. Wambsganss.....	35
CLEVELAND LUTHERAN HOSPITAL—The Rev. Honorary President John H. Meyer, D.D.	35
INSTITUTIONAL MISSIONS—The Rev. William L. Hofius.....	36
MISSIONS TO THE DEAF—The Rev. Theo. Frederking.....	36
THE LUTHERAN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME, KENDALLVILLE, INDIANA—The Rev. Herbert L. Wiese.....	37
THE LUTHERAN HOME FOR THE AGED, WESTLAKE, OHIO—The Rev. Roland C. Bosse	37
DIRECTORY OF CONGREGATIONS OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT.....	38
THE CENTENNIAL HYMN—The Rev. Herman W. Gockel.....	41
THE CENTENNIAL DOXOLOGY—The Rev. William J. Single.....	41
General Editor of the Centennial Booklet: Mr. W. J. Gernand	



preface

It behooves us often to look backward as well as forward. We should be stronger and braver if we thought oftener about the steadfast faith and the heroic deeds of our beloved and immortal forefathers. The occasional backward look would give us poise and patience and courage and fearlessness and faith. The ancient Hebrew teachers had a genius for looking backward to the days and deeds of their great leaders. They never wearied of chanting the praises of God for giving them inspired leaders like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; or Moses, Joshua, and Samuel. They never failed to recognize the guiding hand of God in the lives and the works of their mighty dead. Thus did they bring to bear upon the living the inspiring memories of the great religious leaders of bygone days. May we, too, be inspired by the deeds of those who have gone before.



foreword

The Word of God spoken to Abraham when He said: "I will bless thee and make thy name great and thou shalt be a blessing unto many" is indeed applicable to our entire church body and to our Central District in the year of its Centennial. God has demonstrated this through ten decades. Small were the beginnings of the District in 1854 after our Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod had been in existence only seven years. However, the favor of God has been evident in the development of our District. The 95,000 communicant members, the 140,000 souls and the scores of mission groups that have developed into self-sustaining congregations testify to the blessings that have issued forth from this District.

On the occasion of our District Centennial we praise and glorify God for all He has done for us and for all He has privileged us to do for others. "Soli Deo Gloria"—"to God alone the Glory"—is for us this year not a mere slogan, but the absolute truth which should impress all of us mightily. May He continue in His grace and mercy to bless the work of The Central District; may He bless us as a church body; may He bless each child of God in our midst.

This brief booklet is to set forth just a few of the many blessings which the Lord has distributed to us in our Central District. May it find favor with God and man.

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD



May 3, 1954

Members of The Central District,
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

Dear Brethren and Co-workers:

Please accept my hearty congratulations on this joyous occasion when by God's grace you are permitted to celebrate the Centennial of the Central District of our Church. With which He showered on your District during the past Century. May God, Who has been so gracious in the past, continue to bestow His rich and gracious blessings on your District and its wonderful work also in the years which lie before us!

Since The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, because the Lord had granted marvelous growth, and also because the blessed cause of our Redeemer could be served more effectively, divided itself into four districts, it is now very vitally interested in the Centennial Celebrations which I am permitted to serve, I want to express sincere felicitations. All your brethren throughout Synod rejoice and thank God with you. From the hearts of your co-workers in Christ's Kingdom arises the prayer that "A Century of Growth by the Grace of God" may graciously continue also in the new Century which you are now beginning. May you experience the fulfillment of the Savior's wonderful promise: "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

Yours in Christ,

THE REV. J. W. BEHNKEN, D. D.
PRESIDENT

THE REV. H. HARMS, D. D.
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
THE REV. A. M. GRUMM, D. D.
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

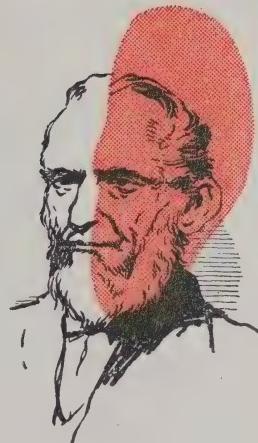
THE REV. W. F. LICHTSINN, D. D.
THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT
THE REV. F. A. HERTWIG, D. D.
FOURTH VICE-PRESIDENT

THE REV. M. F. KRETMANN, D. D.
SECRETARY
W. H. SCHLUETER, LL.D.
TREASURER

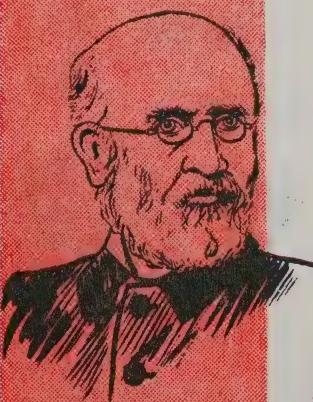
BIOGRAPHIES of the presidents of the central district

THE REVEREND WILLIAM SIHLER, Ph.D., *President, 1854 - 1861*

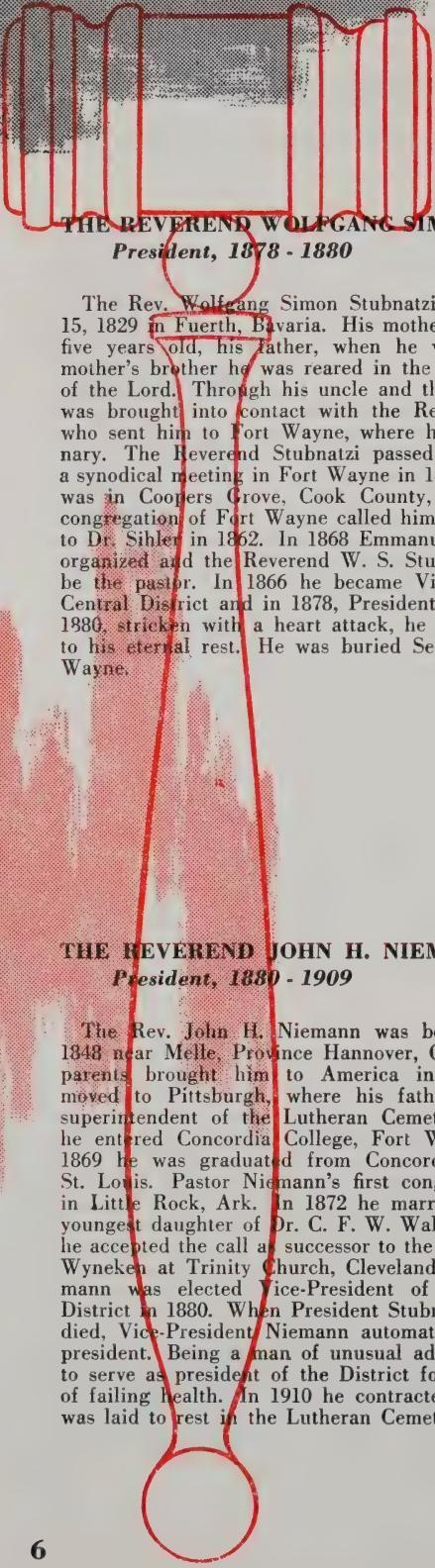
Dr. William Sihler was born at Bernstadt near Breslau in Silesia, Germany, on November 12, 1801. His mother, a strict Catholic, died when he was ten years old. Like his father young William became a soldier. At 18 he was a second lieutenant in an infantry regiment. He changed his course, however, and attended the University of Berlin from 1826 to 1829. After his graduation he came under Christian influence in Director Blochmann's school at Breslau. The Reverend F. C. D. Wyneken's letter impelled him to decide for the Christian ministry in America and the Reverend William Loehe was responsible for his coming to Ohio. Having successfully passed his theological examination, he sailed for the United States, reaching New York in September, 1843. His first charge was in Pomeroy, Ohio. Then, in 1845, he began his life's work as pastor of St. Paul's, Fort Wayne, Indiana. With Walther and Wyneken he helped organize the Missouri Synod. He was the vice-president of Synod 1847-54, 1864-69, and 1874-78. From 1854 to 1861 he served as the first president of The Central District. Dr. Sihler was the author of a number of sermon books and essays. At the age of 45 he married Susanna Kern of South Euclid, Ohio. They had eleven children. He died October 27, 1885 and was buried in Concordia Cemetery, Fort Wayne, Indiana.



THE REVEREND H. C. SCHWAN, D. D., *President, 1861 - 1877*



Dr. H. C. Schwan was born April 5, 1819 in Horneburg, Hannover, Germany. He attended the Gymnasium at Stade and was graduated from the Universities of Goettingen and Jena in 1842. After his ordination on September 13, 1843, he went to South America to serve in Bahia (now Sao Salvador), Brazil. The first pastorate held by Dr. Schwan after coming to the United States was at Neu Bielefeld (now Black Jack), Missouri, where he was installed in 1850. He was pastor of Zion Church, Cleveland, Ohio, 1851-1881, and associate pastor till 1899. For 16 years (1861-1877), Dr. Schwan was president of The Central District. Then he was elected president of Synod, serving from 1878 to 1899. The Exposition of Luther's Small Catechism, published in 1861 and used in our Synod for many years, was largely the work of Dr. Schwan. He died May 29, 1905. His mortal remains were laid to rest in Lakeview Cemetery, Cleveland, Ohio.



THE REVEREND WOLFGANG SIMON STUBNATZI, President, 1878 - 1880

The Rev. Wolfgang Simon Stubnatz was born February 15, 1829 in Fuerth, Bavaria. His mother died when he was five years old, his father, when he was twelve. By his mother's brother he was reared in the fear and knowledge of the Lord. Through his uncle and through his pastor he was brought into contact with the Reverend Wm. Loehe, who sent him to Fort Wayne, where he entered the Seminary. The Reverend Stubnatz passed his examination at a synodical meeting in Fort Wayne in 1849. His first charge was in Coopers Grove, Cook County, Illinois. St. Paul's congregation of Fort Wayne called him to become assistant to Dr. Sihler in 1862. In 1868 Emmanuel congregation was organized and the Reverend W. S. Stubnatz was called to be the pastor. In 1866 he became Vice-President of The Central District and in 1878, President. On September 13, 1880, stricken with a heart attack, he was suddenly called to his eternal rest. He was buried September 16, in Fort Wayne.



THE REVEREND JOHN H. NIEMANN, President, 1880 - 1909

The Rev. John H. Niemann was born April 11, 1848 near Melle, Province Hannover, Germany. His parents brought him to America in 1852. They moved to Pittsburgh, where his father was made superintendent of the Lutheran Cemetery. In 1860 he entered Concordia College, Fort Wayne and in 1869 he was graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Pastor Niemann's first congregation was in Little Rock, Ark. In 1872 he married Julia, the youngest daughter of Dr. C. F. W. Walther. In 1876 he accepted the call as successor to the Rev. C. F. D. Wyneken at Trinity Church, Cleveland. Pastor Niemann was elected Vice-President of The Central District in 1880. When President Stubnatz suddenly died, Vice-President Niemann automatically became president. Being a man of unusual administrative and executive ability, he was privileged to serve as president of the District for 29 years. In 1909 he declined re-election because of failing health. In 1910 he contracted pneumonia and died at the age of 61 years. He was laid to rest in the Lutheran Cemetery, Cleveland.





THE REVEREND JOHN H. WEFEL,
President, 1909 - 1915

The Rev. John H. Wefel was born September 24, 1862 in Fort Wayne, Ind. His parents were John H. Wefel and Wilhelmina nee Kleinsorge. He attended St. Paul's Parochial School and Concordia College, Fort Wayne. In 1884 he was graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis. From 1884 to 1927 Pastor Wefel served the following congregations: Trinity, Pomeroy, Ohio; St. Peter's, Cleveland, Ohio; Trinity, Zanesville, Ohio; and St. John's, Cleveland, Ohio.

Pastor Wefel was married to Anna Marie Reuter of Pomeroy, Ohio. Of their four children, two are living: Emilia Elizabeth of Cleveland and Helena Ann, wife of the Rev. Martin Ilse, Jr., Vice-President of our District. The Rev. Wefel was president of The Central District from 1909 to 1915. After a long, successful, and richly blessed ministry, particularly also in St. John's at Cleveland, he mysteriously disappeared from view in the Church Militant.

THE REVEREND WILLIAM MOLL,
President, 1915 - 1919

The Rev. William Moll was born in Detroit, Michigan, September 3, 1867. He attended the day school of his father's and grandfather's church in Frankenmuth. After confirmation he studied at Concordia College, Fort Wayne and was graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, in 1889. Before coming to The Central District, Pastor Moll had served congregations in Kirkwood, Mo.; Dunkirk, New York; and Ottawa, Canada. From 1903 to 1933 he was pastor of Emmanuel congregation, Fort Wayne. From 1915 to 1919 Pastor Moll was President of The Central District. In 1892 Pastor Moll married Clara Keyl of Staten Island, New York. He died on November 26, 1948 and was buried in Concordia Cemetery, Fort Wayne.



THE REVEREND J. ADAM SCHMIDT,
President, 1919 - 1920

The Rev. J. Adam Schmidt was born April 5, 1857 in Shelby County, Ohio. At the age of eight he moved with his parents to Fort Wayne, where he attended Christian Day School and Concordia College. He was graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1877 and was called to St. John's Lutheran Church, Elyria, Ohio, succeeding his own brother, Dr. C. C. Schmidt. Pastor Schmidt was privileged to spend his entire ministry in the service of this congregation. In 1878 he married Johanna Schwan of Cleveland, daughter of the sainted Dr. H. C. Schwan. After her death he married Emily Schmid of St. Louis. The fine talents of Pastor Schmidt were recognized also by Synod, for he served the church at large in various capacities, as Visitor, as member of the Board of Control of the Fort Wayne Concordia, and as Vice-President and President of The Central District. He died January 16, 1921.



THE REVEREND J. D. MATTHIUS,
President, 1920 - 1927

The Rev. J. D. Matthius was born February 24, 1866 in West Brighton, Staten Island, N.Y. After his confirmation he attended Concordia College, Fort Wayne and was graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1888. He was ordained in Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Chicago, and was assistant pastor there until 1890. Thereafter he served Bethlehem, Evanston, Ill. for 20 years. From 1910 until his retirement in 1942 he served Trinity, Indianapolis, Ind. From 1920 to 1927 Pastor Matthius was President of The Central District. Prior to that time, he had served as chairman of the Foreign Tongue Mission and as Vice-President of The Central District.

In 1890 Pastor Matthius married Adella Reinke, who died in 1916. In 1918 he married Elizabeth Schwier.

After a ministry of 54 years, Pastor Matthius died on April 30, 1944.



THE REVEREND WALTER F. LICHTSINN, D.D.,
President, 1927 - 1947

The Rev. Walter F. Lichtsinn was born April 24, 1889 in Indianapolis, Indiana, the son of William and Anna Lichtsinn. After graduation from St. Paul's School, Indianapolis, he entered Concordia College, Fort Wayne, graduating in June, 1909. Before entering Concordia Seminary, he served as instructor at Concordia College for one year. In 1913, after graduation from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Pastor Lichtsinn accepted a call to St. John's Lutheran Church, Toronto, Ontario, where he served from 1913 to 1918. Since 1918 Pastor Lichtsinn has served St. Paul's congregation in Hammond, Indiana. In June, 1951, he received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Concordia Seminary, Springfield. Dr. Lichtsinn has served the church at large in the following positions: Secretary of The Central District, 1921-1927; President of The Central District, 1927-1947; Chairman of the College of Presidents since 1945; Vice-President of Synod since 1947; and Chairman of the Concordia Senior College Board of Control since April 8, 1954. Dr. Lichtsinn's marriage to Flora, nee Dreier, was blessed with six daughters and two sons.

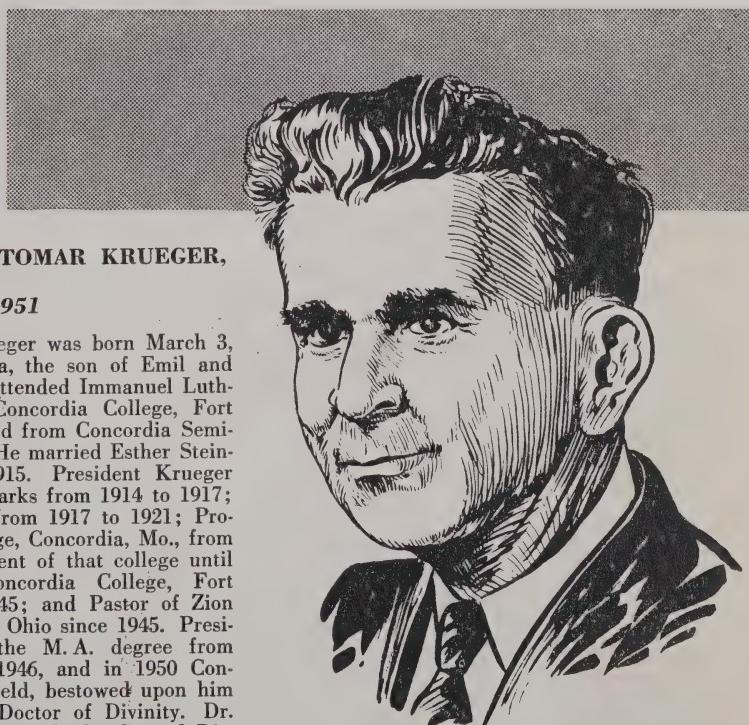
**THE REVEREND JOHN H. MEYER, D. D.,
President, 1947 - 1951**

The Rev. John H. Meyer was born near Napoleon, Ohio on October 18, 1881, the son of J. Christian Meyer and Mary nee Gerken. After attending both public and parochial schools, he received his training for the ministry at Concordia College, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and at Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, graduating there in 1905. Having spent his first years after graduation in Brazil and Argentina, he served at the following parishes: Ridgeville Corners and Wauseon, Ohio till 1911; Immanuel Church, Inglefield, Indiana, till 1913; and, from 1913, St. Paul's Lakewood, Ohio till his retirement from the active ministry on September 20, 1953. On December 12, 1906 he married Martha Johanna nee Fischer. The union was blessed with four sons. Pastor Meyer served The Central District as Visitor, 1925 to 1939; First Vice-President, 1939 to 1947; President, 1947 to 1951. In 1951, when a sudden illness impelled him to refrain from standing for re-election, the District made him Honorary President. He also has been serving as Chairman of the Intersynodical Relations Committee since 1944. In June 1952 his Alma Mater, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.



**THE REVEREND OTTOMAR KRUEGER,
M. A., D. D.,
President, since 1951**

The Rev. Ottomar Krueger was born March 3, 1892 at Seymour, Indiana, the son of Emil and Katherine Krueger. He attended Immanuel Lutheran School, Seymour, Concordia College, Fort Wayne, and was graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1914. He married Esther Steinwedel of Seymour in 1915. President Krueger was missionary in the Ozarks from 1914 to 1917; missionary in Nebraska from 1917 to 1921; Professor at St. Paul's College, Concordia, Mo., from 1921 to 1925, and President of that college until 1937; President of Concordia College, Fort Wayne, from 1937 to 1945; and Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Akron, Ohio since 1945. President Krueger received the M. A. degree from Nebraska University in 1946, and in 1950 Concordia Seminary, Springfield, bestowed upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. Dr. Krueger has been President of The Central District since 1951. He is also a member of Synod's Advisory Committee on Doctrine and Practice, and a member of Synod's Board for the Senior College.





a century of growth by the grace of GOD

1854 - 1954

"Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty."

I Chronicles 29:11

Introduction

The assertion has been made that time is a mere category in our limited human experience. From a psycho-philosophical standpoint there is undoubtedly some truth in that statement. To a child of God, however, time and its passage means a great deal more. Time is a gift of God, and the passage of time makes the follower of Christ conscious of the fact that the Grace of God in Christ Jesus has been operating in his life. It furthermore arouses an awareness of the fact that time is to be utilized in accordance with the will of God.

The preceding considerations move us, the members of The Central District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, as we observe the Centennial of our District. The history of the first century of The Central District is a clear-cut manifestation of the power of God's Word (Isaiah 55:10-11). It began in a very small way, and its history is a record of growth and expansion. The work of the District, its membership, and its functions have grown within the framework of the history of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and the history of the nation.

Unique Features of The Central District

The term "Central" District had, and still has, geographical significance and subsequent historical implications. Originally it was "central" geographically, and it became "central" historically. At the time when the Missouri Synod was divided into four districts (1852), it was in every sense the "central" District.

As the history of the nation unfolded, it embraced a goodly portion of the area later known as the Midwest. The Midwest was highly favored as an area of settlement for the German immigrants who during the nineteenth century arrived at our seaports by the thousands. The other three districts of our Synod were, geographically speaking, on the periphery of the Midwest. The Eastern District in 1854 was the center of older Lutheran bodies which, by the time our Synod was organized, already embraced a number of heterodox characteristics. The Northern District contained huge areas of virgin wilderness. The Western District extended theoretically to the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean. Prior to the Civil War the Mason and Dixon Line was a formidable barrier south of The Central District. At the time of the Civil War the Missouri Synod had a precarious beachhead south of the Mason and Dixon Line in New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1854 the area south of the Line was a world quite different from that north of the Line. Immigrants, as a rule, avoided the South because of the highly stratified character of the southern social order. This situation must be linked with the fact that other Protestant church bodies were already well established in the South.

During the course of the past century (1854) the other three districts underwent numerous alterations and experienced repeated geographical shrinkages with population increases. The Western District experienced the most extensive proliferation of districts. The Central District, however, originally hemmed in by the other districts and the Mason and Dixon Line, instead of following the subsequent pattern of the other districts, not only remained intact in area but expanded southward and in time annexed Kentucky and West Virginia. After a century of existence, The Central District is still to a large extent the core of our Synod. Numerically it ranks fourth in the Missouri Synod.



Growth and Expansion with the Synod and the Nation

The first steps to divide the Missouri Synod into geographical districts were taken in 1852.¹ In 1853 the geographical limits were set up as follows:

The Western District (Illinois, Missouri, and Louisiana)

The Eastern District (New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia)

The Northern District (Michigan and Wisconsin)

The Central District (Indiana and Ohio)

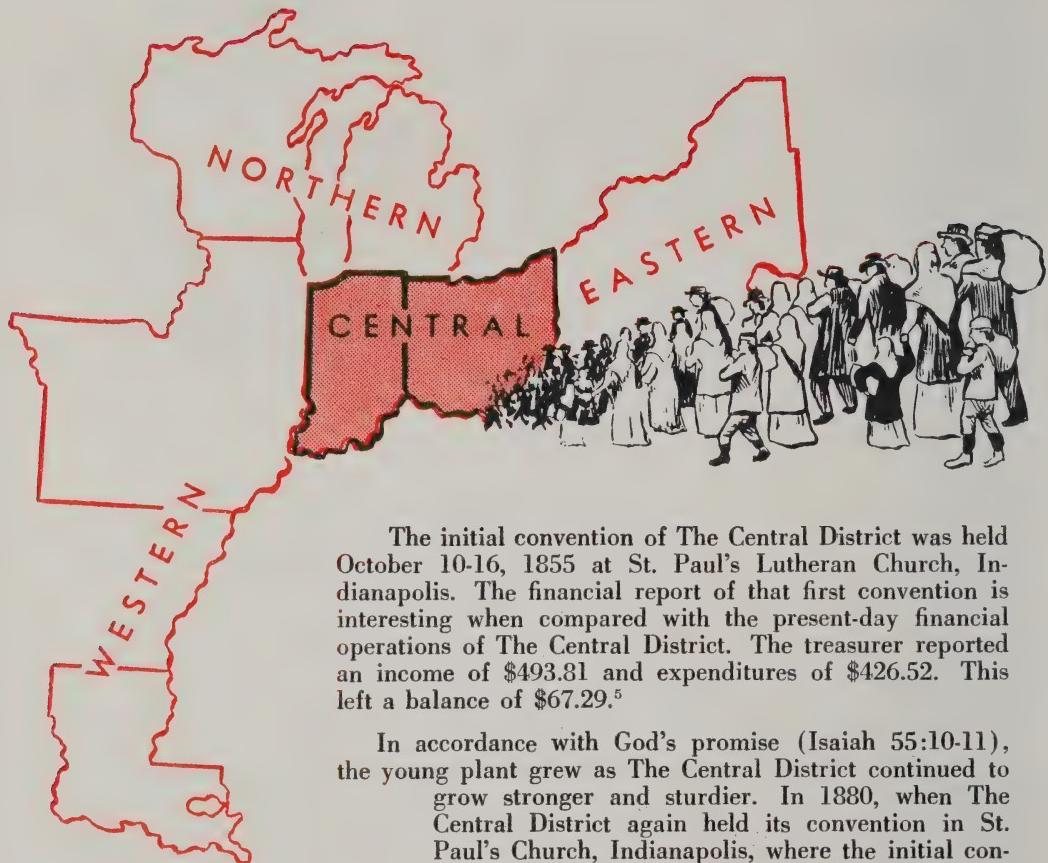
In 1854 the four districts actually came into being.² Missouri Synod Lutherans were widely and thinly scattered over Indiana and Ohio when The Central District began to function. The roster of 1854 shows a list of 34 pastors with congregations, 12 advisory pastors, and six parochial school teachers.³ Four congregations were located in the Fort Wayne area. Others were located in Indianapolis, Huntington, Evansville, Logansport, Lafayette, Preble, Cicero, Fairfield, Mishawaka, Jonesville, and Troy in the State of Indiana. In Ohio, congregations were established in Cleveland, Columbus, Marysville, Willshire, Pomeroy, Euclid, Greenville, Cincinnati, Centre, Liverpool, and Lancaster. The first officials of The Central District were:

Dr. W. Sihler, President	The Rev. C. Fricke, Secretary
The Rev. H. C. Schwan, Vice-president	Mr. C. Piepenbrink, Treasurer ⁴

¹Sechster Synodalbericht, 1852, p. 216

²Siebenter Synodalbericht, 1853, pp. 268-269. ³Achter Synodalbericht, 1854, pp. 301-303. ⁴Ibid., p. 301.





The initial convention of The Central District was held October 10-16, 1855 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Indianapolis. The financial report of that first convention is interesting when compared with the present-day financial operations of The Central District. The treasurer reported an income of \$493.81 and expenditures of \$426.52. This left a balance of \$67.29.⁵

In accordance with God's promise (Isaiah 55:10-11), the young plant grew as The Central District continued to grow stronger and sturdier. In 1880, when The Central District again held its convention in St. Paul's Church, Indianapolis, where the initial convention had been held, the roster listed 80 pastors with congregations, 16 advisory pastors, seven professors, 65 parochial school teachers, and 75 delegates.

During the first quarter century the number of congregations in Indiana increased to such an extent that in 1875 the District was divided into two visiting circuits. The Rev. T. Wichmann was elected as the first Visitor and was placed in charge of the southern half of the District. The vice president of the District was designated to carry out the office of Visitor in the northern circuit.⁶

The convention essays of the first quarter-century reflect a vital concern for the doctrinal as well as the parochial aspects of a truly orthodox church body. The doctrinal essays treated such topics as: Christian Liberty, Prayer, Sin, Baptism, the Eternal Verities of the Christian Religion. That the practical aspects of Christianity were not neglected is evident from such topics as: Church Discipline, Youth and Its Problems, the Family Altar, Pulpit Fellowship, the Relation of a Congregation to the Synod, etc.

The conventions of The Central District were conducted regularly two consecutive years during each triennium. The only exception to that rule occurred in 1864, when the entire Synod met for two consecutive conventions, in 1863 and 1864. Matters of urgent importance dictated that course of action.⁸

Between 1855 and 1921 The Central District conventions were held in various towns and cities in Indiana and Ohio. Since 1921, however, Fort Wayne, Indiana, has become the permanent convention city. During the past 100 years the Central

⁵ P. Eickstaedt, "Die Geschichte des Mittleren Distrikts." *Proceedings of the Fifty-sixth Convention*, 1930, p. 29. ⁶Ibid., p. 41.
⁷Ibid., p. 37. ⁸Ibid., p. 33.

District conventions were held 30 times in Fort Wayne, 12 times in Indianapolis, four times at LaPorte, and various congregations in Ohio and Indiana had the honor of being host to the District convention one or two times each. The times of sessions have been shifted from one season to another. From 1855 to 1864, October was the convention month. In 1865 the convention assembled in August, which month was retained until 1880. Between 1880 and 1921 three months shared the honor of being convention month:

October, August, and April. Since 1921, however, the month of June exclusively has been Central District convention month.

50 YEARS

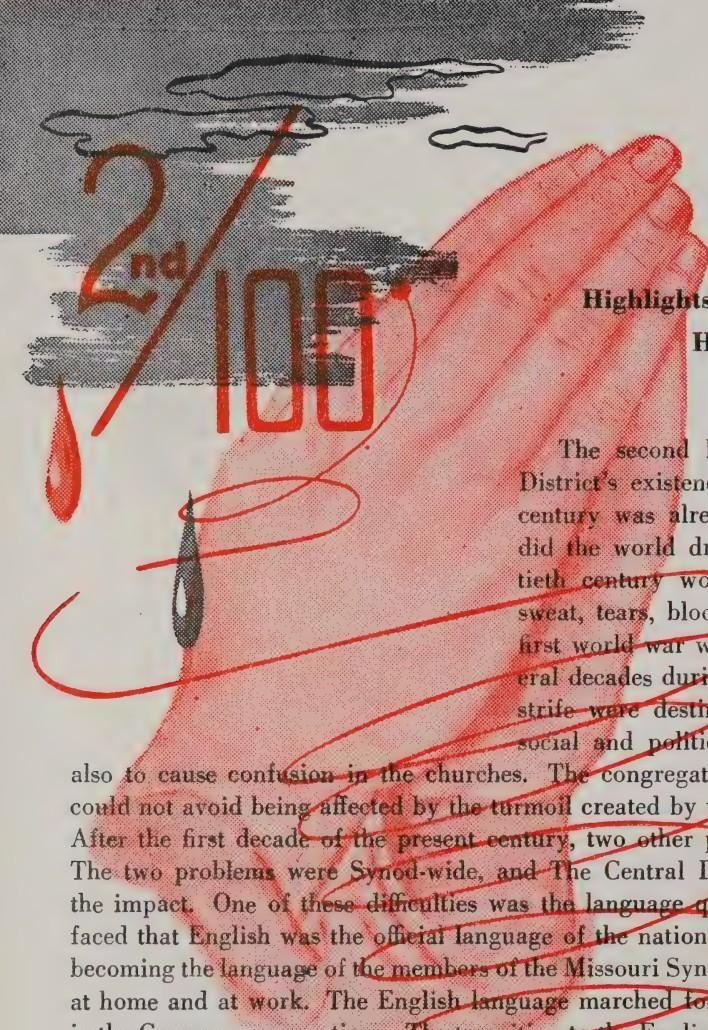
Nation and Synod

It goes without saying that national catastrophes, such as the Civil War, had their effects on the Missouri Synod. In 1861 no effort was made to have the proceedings of The Central District convention printed, due to the high cost.⁹ At the 1862 convention, the complaint was raised that the demoralizing, disintegrating, and hate-engendering forces of the war were gnawing at the spiritual vitals of the Central District congregations.¹⁰ But by God's Grace, the war clouds began to disperse after 1865. But a new and heavy cloud hung over The Central District conventions in 1880 and 1882. A doctrinal controversy struck Missouri's fellowship with the Ohio Synod like a sudden bolt of lightning. This bitter controversy, better known as the "predestination dispute," led to the deplorable break between the Missouri Synod and the Ohio Synod. The dispute was already at its height in 1880.¹¹ After the dissolution of fellowship between the Missouri Synod and the Ohio Synod, *The Lutheran Standard* no longer spoke in agreement with the doctrinal position of Missouri. Thereupon the Cleveland Pastoral Conference of The Central District sponsored the English publication known as *The Lutheran Witness*, under the editorship of the Rev. C. A. Frank. The Central District, assembled in convention in 1882, gave whole-hearted support to the project.¹²

In 1904 The Central District reached the half-century mark. The original four districts of the Missouri Synod had by that time developed into fifteen districts. The Central District had many reasons to lift up grateful eyes to the Giver of all good gifts (James 1). The number of congregations had risen to 133. The congregations were served by 130 pastors. In 1854 there were six parochial school teachers serving in the district. In 1904 there were 136 teachers.¹³



⁹Ibid., p. 31. ¹⁰Ibid. ¹¹Ibid., p. 41. ¹²Ibid., p. 42. ¹³Ibid., p. 51.



Highlights During the Second Half-Century

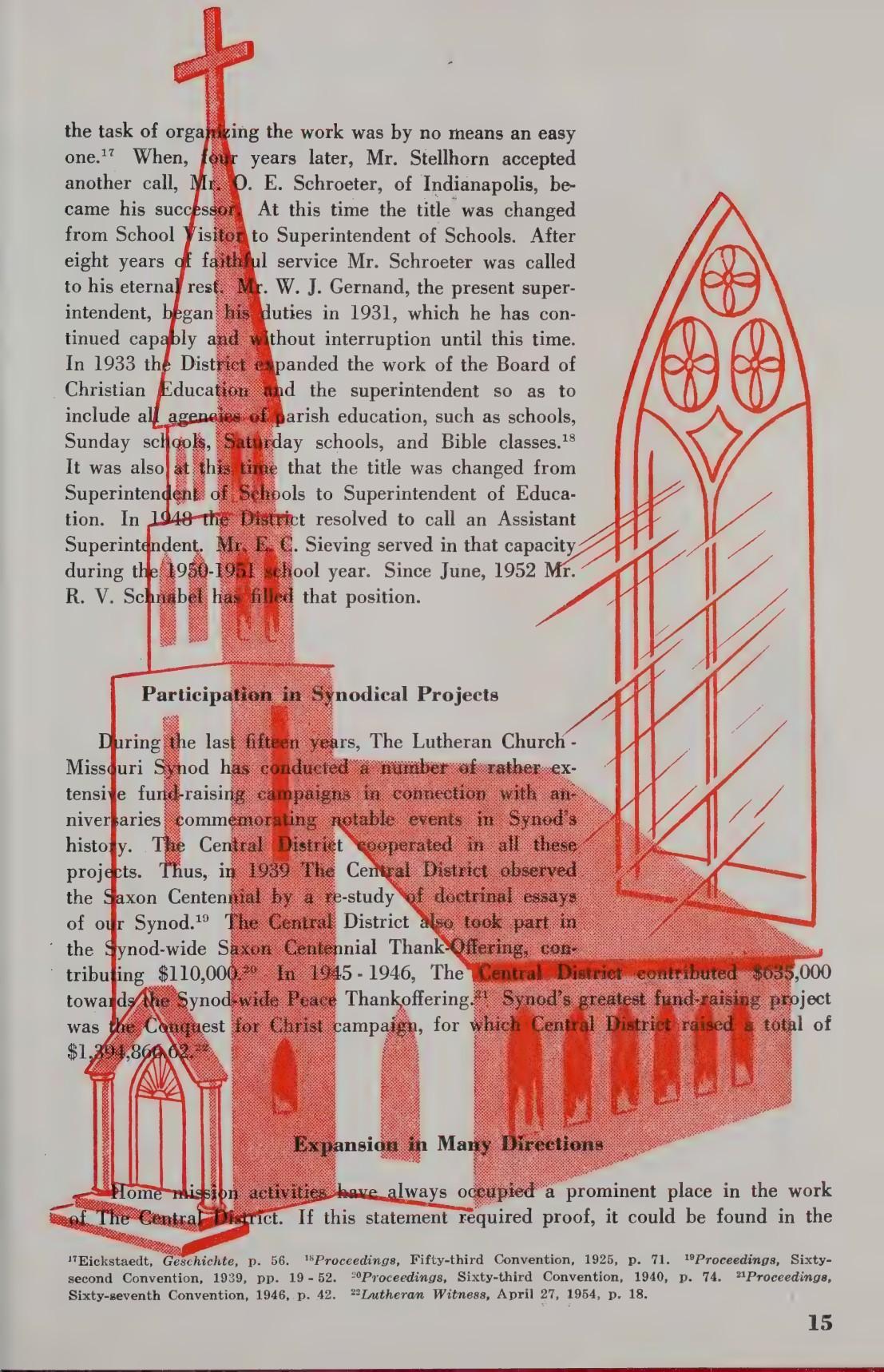
The second half-century of The Central District's existence began after the twentieth century was already well under way. Little did the world dream in 1904 that the twentieth century would turn out to be one of sweat, tears, blood and utter confusion. The first world war was but the beginning of several decades during which unrest, hatred, and strife were destined to disturb not only the social and political life of our country, but

also to cause confusion in the churches. The congregations of our Missouri Synod could not avoid being affected by the turmoil created by wars and international strife. After the first decade of the present century, two other problems became prominent. The two problems were Synod-wide, and The Central District received its share of the impact. One of these difficulties was the language question. The fact had to be faced that English was the official language of the nation, and it was likewise rapidly becoming the language of the members of the Missouri Synod in their daily conversation at home and at work. The English language marched forward despite bitter disputes in the German congregations. The transition to the English language is manifest in the *Proceedings of The Central District*. After 1921, the *Proceedings* appeared in the English language. The practice of reading two doctrinal essays, one in German and one in English, was discontinued in 1933.¹⁴ Thereafter, only essays in English were read and published.

The second difficulty arose in connection with our parish schools. This problem basically tied in with the language question. There was a feeling that the work of the individual parish schools was in need of more coordination, and that more stress should be placed on the English language. At the 1913 Convention, a School Committee was elected. This committee was directed to survey the parish schools of the District, and on the basis of the survey the committee was to make suggestions for improvements.¹⁵ The *Proceedings* from 1913 on show that the welfare of the parish schools was becoming a matter of increasing concern to the District. During the 1918 Convention, one of the essays dealt with parish schools. It was delivered by a very capable teacher, Mr. A. C. Stellhorn.¹⁶ In the election of the same year Mr. Stellhorn was selected to be the first Central District School Visitor. Since the office was new,

¹⁴*Proceedings*, Fifty-eighth Convention, 1933, p. 32. ¹⁵Eickstaedt, *Geschichte*, p. 56.

¹⁶Dr. A. C. Stellhorn at present is serving as School Secretary of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.



the task of organizing the work was by no means an easy one.¹⁷ When, four years later, Mr. Stellhorn accepted another call, Mr. O. E. Schroeter, of Indianapolis, became his successor. At this time the title was changed from School Visitor to Superintendent of Schools. After eight years of faithful service Mr. Schroeter was called to his eternal rest. Mr. W. J. Gernand, the present superintendent, began his duties in 1931, which he has continued capably and without interruption until this time. In 1933 the District expanded the work of the Board of Christian Education and the superintendent so as to include all agencies of parish education, such as schools, Sunday schools, Saturday schools, and Bible classes.¹⁸ It was also at this time that the title was changed from Superintendent of Schools to Superintendent of Education. In 1948 the District resolved to call an Assistant Superintendent. Mr. E. C. Sieving served in that capacity during the 1950-1951 school year. Since June, 1952 Mr. R. V. Schnabel has filled that position.

Participation in Synodical Projects

During the last fifteen years, The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod has conducted a number of rather extensive fund-raising campaigns in connection with anniversaries commemorating notable events in Synod's history. The Central District cooperated in all these projects. Thus, in 1939 The Central District observed the Saxon Centennial by a re-study of doctrinal essays of our Synod.¹⁹ The Central District also took part in the Synod-wide Saxon Centennial Thank-Offering, contributing \$110,000.²⁰ In 1945 - 1946, The Central District contributed \$635,000 towards the Synod-wide Peace ThankOffering.²¹ Synod's greatest fund-raising project was the Conquest for Christ campaign, for which Central District raised a total of \$1,394,866.62.²²

Expansion in Many Directions

Home mission activities have always occupied a prominent place in the work of The Central District. If this statement required proof, it could be found in the

¹⁷Eickstaedt, *Geschichte*, p. 56. ¹⁸*Proceedings*, Fifty-third Convention, 1925, p. 71. ¹⁹*Proceedings*, Sixty-second Convention, 1939, pp. 19 - 52. ²⁰*Proceedings*, Sixty-third Convention, 1940, p. 74. ²¹*Proceedings*, Sixty-seventh Convention, 1946, p. 42. ²²*Lutheran Witness*, April 27, 1954, p. 18.

record of numerical growth in the number of congregations. The two agencies that carry out this vital work are the Mission Board and the Church Extension Board.

Quite naturally, mission activity suffered during the economic depression of the early nineteen thirties. Those were the heartbreaking days of idle candidates and empty treasuries. But still there were bright flashes of light. The District's concern for the spiritual welfare of Lutheran students led to the purchase of a chapel-site at Purdue University in 1946, and the erection of a Student Center. Another Student Center was established at Ohio State University.

A unique mission project was begun in the hill country of Jackson County, Indiana. The work was partially conducted by means of a trailer mission, equipped with loud speaker. On May 12, 1946 the Hill Country Chapel at Medora, Indiana was dedicated.

Mention should also be made of a noble group of women known as the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. This League has on numerous occasions made generous contributions towards mission work in The Central District.

Any board can operate with maximum efficiency only when it is blessed with an effective leader. In 1927 The Central District resolved to call a Mission Director.²³ In 1929 the services of the Rev. W. C. Birkner were secured for that position. Since that time the mission program has been carried on under his very capable leadership. In 1935 he also assumed the function of District Stewardship Secretary.

The manifold activities and the ever-expanding work of the District made it necessary to acquire a District Center. In 1946 a suitable building, located in Fort Wayne, was purchased and now provides office space for the various boards and employes of the District.²⁴

Thus we briefly summarize The Central District's "Century of Growth by the Grace of God." Acknowledging with earnest and joyous gratitude God's abiding presence and blessing, we move into the second century *in His Name*.

²³Eickstaedt, *Geschichte*, p. 63. ²⁴*Proceedings, Sixty-seventh Convention*, p. 19.



centennial

celebration

highlights

Publicity for the Central District Centennial began several weeks before the Convention, with news releases and news stories appearing in the newspapers of various cities throughout the District. On June 19 the Fort Wayne *News-Sentinel* featured Centennial news in its church section, and on June 20 the Fort Wayne *Journal-Gazette* devoted a portion of its Feature section to the Centennial.

* * *

A 30-minute narrative account of the history and present day activities of The Central District was prepared by laymen Richard Katt, Calo Mahlock, Ronald Ross, and Norman Widenhofer, with Pastor E. H. Albers as consultant. It was tape-recorded and made available to radio stations throughout the District, as well as being broadcast by the Fort Wayne radio stations.

* * *

Station WKJG-TV of Fort Wayne made one-half hour available on Sunday, June 20 at 11:00 A.M. for telecasting a Centennial TV Service. The preacher for this service was the Rev. Herbert Berner, District First Vice President, with Pastor E. H. Albers, District Public Relations Department Chairman, serving as liturgist. Music for the service was provided by Mr. Oscar Albers and the Bethlehem Church Choir of Fort Wayne.

* * *

On June 20 a great number of the congregations of The Central District commemorated the Centennial in their Sunday morning church services. In most instances the local pastors preached special sermons for the occasion.

* * *

The Centennial Convention was formally opened with a Confessional Service and the celebration of Holy Communion at Emmanuel Church, Fort Wayne.

* * *

The Rev. Dr. F. A. Hertwig, official representative of the Synodical Praesidium to the Convention, delivered the sermon at the opening session on Tuesday morning, June 22. The Devotional Services throughout the Convention were related to the Centennial theme. Devotional speakers included the following: The Revs. O. Marschke, G. Maassel, A. Starck, H. Lieske, W. Single, O. Schiedler, and N. Schumm. Music for these services was provided by the choir directors of the Fort Wayne congregations. The sermon for the Closing Service was preached by the Rev. Martin Ilse, Jr., District Second Vice President. Concordia College President Herbert Bredemeier and the Rev. Dr. F. A. Hertwig were officiants for that service.

* * *

The proscenium curtain of the stage of the Concordia College Gymnasium (the Convention Hall) was decorated with a 30 foot streamer on which were the Centennial motto, a shield, a cross, and the words "Central District". On each side of the stage was a 4' by 8' display board with the figures 1854 and 1954 on a mural background. District and Synodical displays and exhibits were set up on the stage proper. Displays and exhibits of affiliated groups were placed in a Crull Hall display room. There were no displays or exhibits on the Convention Hall floor.

* * *

The high point of the Centennial celebrations was the CENTENNIAL FESTIVAL SERVICE, held at St. Paul Church, Wednesday evening, June 23. (See Page 19)

* * *

The Centennial Banquet, held on the evening of June 24 at Central Lutheran School, New Haven, provided wholesome social activity and fellowship. The Rev. President O. A. Fuerbringer, D.D., of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis was the speaker, and the Rev. Prof. Martin Bertram was the Master of Ceremonies. String ensemble dinner music was provided by a group of Fort Wayne Concordia Lutheran High School students, under the direction of Mr. Reinhold Werling. Mr. Leonard Ramming led the assemblage in community singing.

historical miscellany

Changes of address in the first quarter of our District's history at times indicated large fields of activity for the pastor. Example: "Rev. G. H. Jaebker, P. O. Adams County, Indiana."

Facing the same problem we have with us today, Mr Christian Piepenbrink, the District treasurer in the 1850's, pleaded in the *Lutheraner* that all monies be sent to him directly and not directly to the Synodical treasurer.

Eight students from the Practical Seminary at Fort Wayne went to the District Convention at Logansport in 1858, several walking the entire distance.

The earliest record of major significance that is extant is a record book of treasurer John P. Schuricht, kept during the 1860's. Found safely tucked away between two pages is a five-dollar bill in the form of *Indiana currency* issued by The Citizens Bank, Gosport, Indiana.

Adult baptisms, adult confirmations, and female parish school teachers were rare in the early days. Growth and change are indicated today by the absence of remarks such as the following, found in early Statistical Yearbooks: Baptized: . . . "among them an adult woman;" "among them a woman of 40;" "an English woman;" Confirmed: . . . "among them a married woman;" Teachers: . . . "also a female teacher." Incidentally, in totaling the number of teachers in the District, female teachers were not included!

The fiftieth anniversary of The Central District was observed in 1904.

The offer to purchase Valparaiso University was presented to the District Convention in 1925. Resolutions urging its purchase, and all-out support of the project, were adopted with enthusiasm.

The Central District was incorporated by resolution of the Convention in 1931. It was resolved to incorporate under the general law of Indiana, rather than as an organization of a holding company.

Disposition of the language question in a nutshell:

1928—It was resolved that opening services should include both German and English sermons; that the official report of the president shall be in English, but that a German abstract be made of the same; that the main essay shall be in English. But a word of caution was added: ". . . no resolution herein embodied aims to exclude the use of German on the part of any person in the convention."

1933—All essays from henceforth shall be presented in the American (sic!) language.

1937—The German language now yielded completely to the inevitable when it was resolved that all devotional meditations shall be given in English.

The Central District and The Western District are the only two districts of Synod that have at all times enjoyed having a Synodical institution in their midst. Before Concordia College was transferred to the Fort Wayne campus in 1861, the Practical Seminary (now at Springfield, Illinois) was situated in Fort Wayne.

In grateful appreciation of many years of service to The Central District: Dr. Walter C. Birkner, Secretary of Missions, was installed on Sept. 8, 1929, and has filled this position with unceasing efficiency ever since. He is also the District's Secretary of Stewardship, and in addition holds the following positions in Synod: Chairman of the Board for Higher Education; Regional Representative of the Synodical Stewardship Department; Secretary of the Fiscal Conference.

Mr. W. J. Gernand holds the second-place honor in regard to length of service to the District. He was installed at the 1931 District Convention. He has furthered the cause of Christian education, under God's blessing, with signal success. He is well known for his inimitable manner of passing on a choice story or humorous anecdote, as well as for his keen memory of persons, places, and events of The Central District.

Centennial Service program



IN NOMINE JESU

*The Centennial Service
of*

**THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH -
MISSOURI SYNOD**

**Saint Paul's Lutheran Church
Wednesday, June 23, 1954**

Fort Wayne, Indiana
Eight o'clock

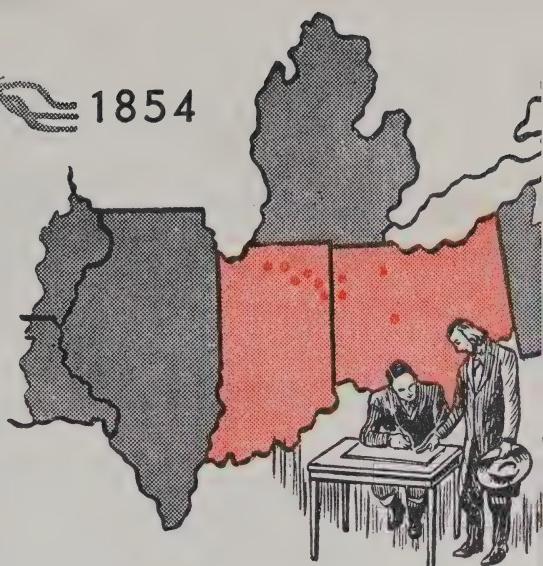
THE ORDER OF SERVICE

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| The Prelude: "From All That Dwell Below The Skies" | Alec Rowley |
| The Hymn of Praise: "From All That Dwell Below The Skies" | |
| The Confession of Sins—The Introit—The Gloria Patri—The Kyrie—The Gloria in Excelsis—The Salutation—The Collect | |
| The Epistle: | ✚ Ephesians 1:15-23 ✚ |
| The Triple Hallelujah | |
| The Gospel: | ✚ Matthew 13:31-43 ✚ |
| The Apostles' Creed | |
| The Centennial Choir: "Now Thank We All Our God" | |
| Cruger-Bach | |
| The Hymn to the Holy Trinity: "We All Believe In One True God" | |
| The Sermon: | ✚ Leviticus 25:10 ✚ |
| The Offertory: "We All Believe In One True God" | |
| J. S. Bach | |
| The Centennial Prayer — The Lord's Prayer | |
| The Centennial Choir: "O Be Joyful In The Lord" | |
| Charles Wood | |
| The Centennial Hymn: "Lord, We Praise Thy Glorious Name" | |
| Herman Gockel | |
| The Collect for the Church | |
| The Benediction | |
| The Centennial Doxology: "Praise To The Lord" | |
| Wm. J. Single | |
| The Postlude: "God The Father, Be Our Stay" | |
| J. S. Bach | |
| The Preacher—The Reverend Ottomar Krueger, D.D. | |
| The Liturgists—The Reverend J. H. Meyer, D.D. | |
| The Reverend Edwin A. Nerger | |
| The Organist—Mr. A. C. Stellhorn | |
| The Choir Director—Mr. Oscar H. Albers | |

1954



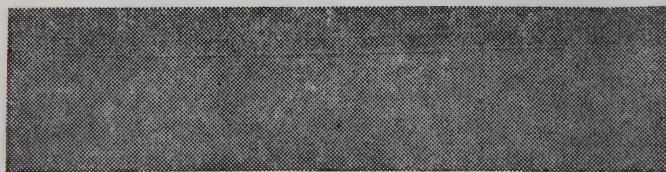
1854



KEY
• congregations



missions



CENTRAL DISTRICT MISSIONS

No review of Central District Home Missions would be complete without recognizing the work of the Fathers during the past century. As a symbol of this missionary spirit, Pastor F. C. D. Wyneken stands out prominently. His journeys on horseback through the undeveloped sections of Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan, clad in his famous yellow leather trousers, can safely be put down as the first sustained missionary effort in the Central District.

From the record it appears that at first the local congregations considered it their direct responsibility to develop Missions in their own communities without waiting for a Mission Board to take the initiative. There was a Mission Board, but the few subsidies that were granted were restricted mainly to stations that were isolated from other groups. Newly developing congregations in and around Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, and Cleveland appear infrequently as subsidized congregations in those early days.

As the second quarter of the century began in 1880, the pattern according to which mission work is carried on today emerged and was slowly defined. The number of congregations being supported with District funds increased. In 1898 aid was granted to 13 mission stations. In 1900 their number had increased to 17, and in 1904 to 22, among which was counted one all-English congregation, a development that received particular mention in those days.

The third quarter of the District's life (1904 to 1929) might have gone down in history as merely a period during which the changes first noted in the second quarter century (i.e., transition from German to English, and closer identification of our people with their communities) continued gradually and gently. But World War I reached deep into the life of every community and individual. The change from German to English was immensely accelerated. At least some of our members became aware of their community responsibilities very suddenly. Mission possibilities that the fathers did not have presented themselves. Concern for reaching unchurched "American" people became more urgent.

In order to make certain that all sections of the District were receiving proper attention, it was decided to elect sub-committees representing the three larger Conference districts to assist the District Mission Board. An era of church building on a rather elaborate scale—in keeping with the spirit of the flush Twenties—was inaugurated. Surveys were instituted. As the third quarter century closed, the District had called a traveling missionary, who began to survey Central Ohio.

The fourth quarter of the century opened in 1929 with ambitious plans to launch a mission expansion program under the guidance of a full-time Secretary

of Missions, who established an office in Fort Wayne. The sub-committees were discontinued, and the membership of the Mission Board was later enlarged to five persons. During the years of the depression some adjustments became necessary (the annual Mission Budget dropped from a high of \$52,255.00 to a low of \$42,326.63). But the church rallied her forces and recovery began in the early thirties.

This was the era of the portable chapel—standard price, \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00—which frequently was made possible by grants from the Lutheran Women's Missionary Endeavor.

The mission consciousness of the District was sharpened and reflected itself in establishing the Cleveland Gospel Center in 1937 and the Hill Country Mission of Southern Indiana in 1942. Institutional Mission Work also received an impetus, but the support of this activity usually came from local Mission Federations.

It was during the fourth quarter of the century also that the opportunities on the university campus were realized by the District. This resulted in the construction of a student chapel center in Bloomington, Indiana, in the purchase of a student center in Columbus, Ohio, and in the development of our student chapel center in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Throughout the decades the work among the Negroes had been made the obligation of the Synodical Conference. But as the District approached the century mark, it was suggested to the Districts of Synod to assume guidance and financial responsibility for the Negro congregations in their own areas. On January 1, 1952, the Central District officially incorporated the seven subsidized Negro congregations in its Mission Program.

For many years the state of West Virginia had been represented with only one Lutheran congregation of our Synodical affiliation. During the last few years there has been a deeper penetration into this state and continued emphasis upon the work of our Church in metropolitan areas, such as Cleveland, without overlooking the opportunities in smaller communities. In 1954 the work of Church Extension was made the responsibility of the District Mission Board—a return to the arrangement that had existed from 1901 to 1924.

As the century closes, The Central District is subsidizing 55 congregations (of which six have Christian Day Schools) with a total of 9,434 souls, on a budget of \$140,000.00. God has blessed the preaching of His Word in our District. But the statement still holds true, also for the Central District as it begins the second century of its existence: "There remaineth yet much land to be possessed." (Joshua 13:1)

1854

parish education

When the disciples faithfully obeyed the Lord's Great Commission they initiated an extensive and intensive program of Christian education. Their experience and all subsequent history of the Christian church bears out the twin truths that a strong church must be a teaching church and that a strong teaching church will, of necessity, be a growing church.

One reason for the success of the Reformation, undoubtedly, was Luther's great emphasis on Christian education. Similarly, the rapid growth and expansion of our Synod during the first few decades must be ascribed, under God's blessing, to the loyalty and devotion with which the founding fathers undertook the task of carrying out an efficient teaching program in each congregation. How firmly our fathers were convinced that thorough Christian education is a basic necessity for healthy church life may be concluded from the eight statements setting forth the objectives for which our Synod was organized. We quote but one which states that Synod exists for "The furtherance of Christian parochial schools and of a thorough instruction for Confirmation."

In The Central District Christian education has received much consideration from the very beginning. In the first convention of The Central District the welfare of the parish schools was discussed and congregations were urged to call teachers. Christian education was again considered in the second convention when Christian family life, family devotions, and proper direction and guidance of the youth were among the topics for discussion. During the past century many changes have taken place, also in our educational work. However, the many resolutions in the District *Proceedings* bear witness to the fact that Christian education has always, and still does, receive liberal and loyal support in the congregations of our District.

When the Central District was organized in 1854, the great majority of the member congregations supported parish schools. A few congregations were fortunate enough to have trained parish school teachers. In many other congregations the pastors taught. Some schools were in session only three or four days a week, but, at that, they compared favorably with the equally primitive public schools of that time. As congregations prospered, and as educational standards were raised to meet the more exacting needs of the youth, the Lutheran schools, too, were from time to time improved and modernized. Now after one hundred years, the congregations of The Central District operate 108 modern grade schools, attended by nearly 13,000 pupils, and taught by 381 teachers. Well over three-fourths of the communicant membership of the Central District congregations are members of congregations supporting parish schools, and over half of the District's school age children are enrolled in parish schools. In addition to the grade schools there are within the District two flourishing high schools. Many of the teachers are graduates of Synod's Junior Colleges, or of the two fully accredited Teachers' Colleges in the support of which The Central District cooperates with the other Districts of Synod.



A word must also be said about the summer schools which were sometimes conducted in small congregations until proper provisions for a parish school could be made. The summer schools of pioneer days must not be confused with the vacation Bible schools of the present time. The primary purpose of the summer schools was to provide instruction in the Christian religion for the children of the parish. In addition to catechism, Bible history, and hymn singing the curriculum usually included German reading and writing. In a few instances summer schools were conducted only five or six weeks. More often, the summer school term lasted ten or twelve weeks. Usually it was a temporary substitute for a parish school. The vacation Bible school as we know it today is usually conducted for two or three weeks and serves primarily as an evangelizing agency. Of the seven or eight thousand pupils annually enrolled in the vacation Bible schools of The central District, nearly one-third come from non-Lutheran homes.

In The Central District, Sunday schools came into general use during and immediately after the first World War. Prior to that time a few congregations had "Christenlehre" on Sunday afternoon. More often there was a period of catechetical instruction during the regular morning service. The primary purpose of this arrangement was to review the basic doctrines of the Christian religion in the presence of the entire congregation. When the need for services in the English language compelled many congregations to conduct two services each Sunday morning, "Christenlehre" was generally dropped and Sunday schools were organized. Unfortunately, in too many instances the Sunday schools provided instruction for the children only. Efforts are being made at the present time to correct this by promoting Bible classes for adolescents and adults. At the present time our Sunday schools have an enrollment of more than 13,000 pre-school children and 19,000 children of grade school age. The Bible class enrollment is nearly 12,000. Since nearly 40% of the children of grade-school age enrolled in Sunday school do not attend a parish school, many congregations also conduct Saturday morning classes or released time classes.

We conclude the first century of the Central District's educational work with gratitude to God for the bountiful blessings he has bestowed upon it during the past one hundred years. We begin the new century with the prayer that the Lord would give us understanding, courage, and faith so that we might continue to cherish our educational agencies as a precious heritage, use them diligently, and transmit them to the generations yet to come.





youth work

Work among the young people of the church has always been recognized as an obligation of The Central District, but youth work became official in the District when a Board for Young People's Work was elected in about 1920. The program of the International Walther League was adopted by Synod as its official youth program. Synod suggested that each District provide for a committee for young people's work. In The Central District this Board has representation from the three pastoral conference areas. As directed in the Synodical Handbook, the District Board works closely with the Synodical Board and the International Walther League, and encourages congregations to adopt the Walther League program.

The purpose of youth work in the District is to provide young people with opportunities for training in Christian knowledge, Christian living, Christian service, "and in all things to grow up into Him which is the Head, even Christ." Bible study is the most important and basic activity for all training.

To meet the acute need for trained youth leaders, the District Youth Board has encouraged attendance at, and provided subsidy for, Youth Workers' Conferences (leadership training schools), and has supported Lutheran Service Volunteer Schools and Walther League Summer Camps. Youth conferences, institutes, and reports to conferences and laymen's meetings are also used to promote youth work. Congregations are encouraged to appoint a youth committee to supervise parish youth work. The District Board for Young People's Work stands ready to assist congregations in fostering and furthering activities that help our youth to "grow in Christ."

student service

"We urgently recommend that the District adopt Overture No. 2 and appropriate \$50,000 for a combination building" (in Bloomington, Indiana, where Indiana University is located) "composed of a chapel and parsonage." This resolution was adopted unanimously in 1932 by The Central District Convention. But even earlier our Lutheran students attending Purdue University in West Lafayette had been served on a part-time basis.

As students enrollment increased, The Central District gave more attention to the campus ministry. A Student Center was acquired in Columbus, Ohio, in 1949; in 1951 the District dedicated a Student Chapel-Center in West Lafayette; in 1952 a small appropriation was also granted Faith Lutheran congregation of Kent, Ohio (home of Kent State University) to provide a spacious room as student lounge. In other colleges with an appreciable enrollment of our Lutheran young people, pastors give part-time service.

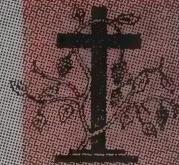
The three full-time student pastors and the part-time men meet occasionally with the District Student Coordinator. The potential of this phase of church work is tremendous for retaining the loyalty of future church workers who will be influential church leaders.

christian stewardship

The Department of Christian Stewardship came into existence in the Central District in a rather unusual way. All Districts of Synod had joined in 1934 to observe the 400th anniversary of the translation of the Bible by Doctor Martin Luther. In connection with this event a thank-offering was to be gathered in every District, and the District Board of Finance was authorized to secure someone who would make this ingathering of funds his responsibility. After several individuals had been approached and had found it impossible to serve, the Board decided that the Secretary of Missions—a full-time employee of the District—should be assigned this task.

At the 1936 District Convention a comprehensive report was made to the assembly by the Board of Finance. The report was approved, an overture to "make the Stewardship effort within the District a permanent arrangement" was adopted, and the Stewardship Department had been officially recognized!

The manner in which the Stewardship Department originated is interesting and revealing. It emphasizes the rather obvious fact that the term "Christian Stewardship" very often is too closely identified with the Stewardship of Treasure (money) instead of being understood to mean the placing at God's disposal *all* of the Christian's resources—his physical talents, his mental abilities, his time, his money. It would be unfair, however, to conclude that the emphasis on money has excluded all other considerations from the District Stewardship Program since 1934. A perusal of the CENTRAL DISTRICT STEWARDSHIP BULLETIN, a monthly publication first issued in 1934, and a review of Circuit Meetings, bring convincing evidence that the various aspects of the over-all Stewardship Life were treated; inspiration and information were stressed as the basis upon which God-pleasing financial participation must rest. Frequent meetings with individuals and local congregations were arranged.



Another inaccurate impression prevails that the implications of Christian Stewardship were discovered and understood for the first time when the Open Bible Thank-offering was gathered. Not so. In some early Central District Convention *Proceedings* there are repeated references to "Haushalterschaft" (Stewardship). The sermons of the pioneer Fathers do contain explanations of the well-known words of our Catechism: "that I may be His own, and live under Him in His Kingdom, and serve Him everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness." But it is true that for various reasons Christian Stewardship did not occupy a position of prominence in the early history of our District.

Throughout the last quarter century (excepting during the war years) financial crises faced the entire Church almost continuously, both in meeting its operational expenses and in securing funds that were urgently needed for capital investments in the Mission fields and in maintaining our schools for ministerial training. This situation could not be ignored and resulted in an emphasis on the Stewardship of Money, stressing financial goals such as reaching the budget-allocation and participating wholeheartedly in special efforts, the last of which was the "Conquest for Christ." Because of the splendid co-operation of pastors and people, the District was able, under God, to establish an enviable record in all efforts of this type.

But throughout Synod, and therefore also throughout The Central District, it was being realized that these financial crises were indications that too few of our people understood how to live an over-all Stewardship Life. In 1950 Synod established a Stewardship Department which was asked to give guidance in developing *all* phases of Christian Stewardship.

Also in the Central District a more comprehensive plan of Stewardship activity was developed. As the Central District approaches her Centennial, the following steps in broad outline have been taken to put into effect an over-all Stewardship Program: 1) An Interim District Stewardship Committee (as separate from the District Board of Finance) has been appointed, and the Centennial Convention will be asked to give permanent standing to this Committee; 2) All Circuits have appointed Stewardship Committees; 3) A joint meeting of all Circuit Stewardship Committees has been held at which the Stewardship Program was spelled out in detail; 4) Almost all Circuits have held Circuit Stewardship Meetings; 5) The great majority of congregations now have Stewardship Committees; 6) In many congregations the Stewardship Committee has begun to function; 7) A one-page Bulletin, STEWARDSHIP NEWS (to distinguish it from the STEWARDSHIP BULLETIN) will be sent at stated intervals to the pastors and the three persons who comprise the Congregational Stewardship Committee.

It seems a fair evaluation to say that as the Central District enters upon the second century she is preparing herself to enlist the talents of all of her members in order that they may be better equipped to meet the innumerable opportunities for service which await our Church on all levels and in all areas of activity.



C H U R C H E X T E N S I O N

Finance Board and Church Extension Fund

From the early financial records of The Central District we glean the following information about the manner in which our financial program has grown, and the way in which our thinking as to the relative importance of the various activities has changed.

How our program has grown may be seen from the following comparative figures.

	1854	1865	1879	1953
Total Receipts	\$493.81			\$1,417,008.00
Budget Items		\$467.91		806,890.00
Synodical Missions		\$132.70		565,781.00
District Home Missions		335.87		140,000.00
Student Aid Fund		236.82		11,000.00
Non-budget Items	38.25			558,422.00

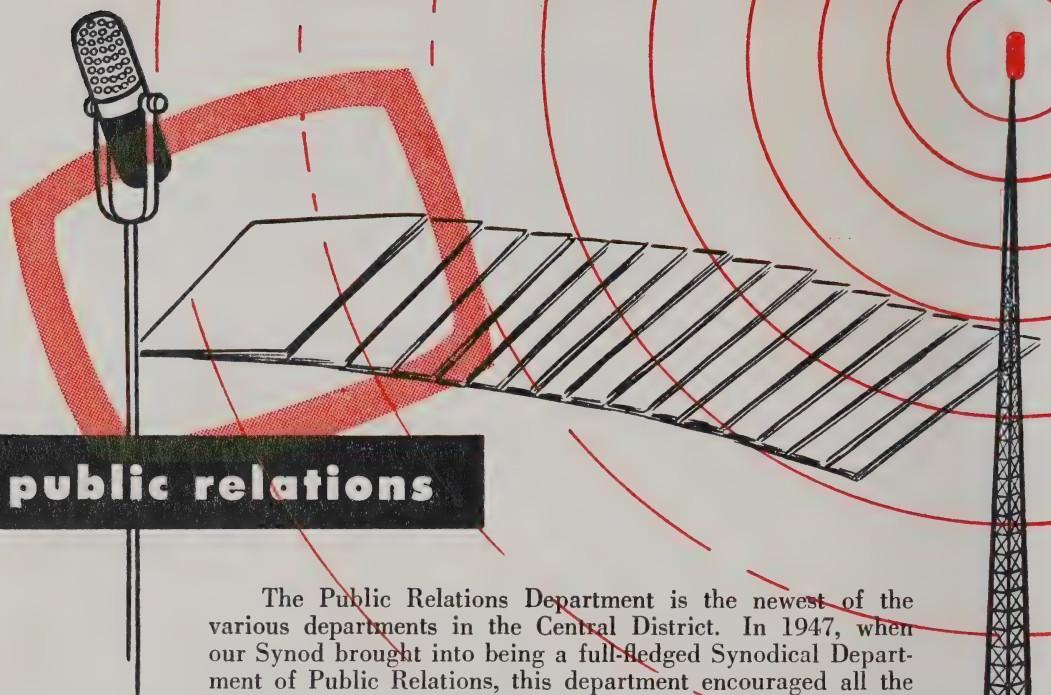
In some respects our thinking has not changed greatly. For example, we often think of our Pension Fund for pastors and teachers as of recent origin. The cash book of treasurer Conzelman, 1860-1881, shows the first eleven pages devoted to a District Relief Fund somewhat similar to our present Synodical Pension Fund. In 1860 pastors made payments of \$1.00 per year, and by 1871 payments had advanced to \$4.00. Recently we have seen similar increases in Pension Fund rates.

The relative importance of some funds has undergone a marked change. For example, compare the proportionate amounts disbursed for Synodical Missions, District Home Missions, and Student Aid in 1865 with the comparable proportionate amounts for 1953.

The Church Extension Fund did not come into being until 1901, when the District authorized the creation of such a fund on substantially the same basis as now prevails. It was to be used for the building of new mission congregations, parish schools, and for acquiring building sites. The regulations provided that funds be loaned to deserving congregations against good security, without interest, on repayment schedules determined by the Mission Board. The fund was created with money received from bequests and gifts amounting to \$3,317.22. Loans were made as follows: "\$1,000 to Lorain, Ohio; \$50 to Berea, Ohio; and \$1,000 to the congregation in Toledo." By 1934 the fund had grown to \$158,708. By 1953 the fund had reached \$1,082,807.

Other articles in this booklet tell how the Lord has blessed the educational, mission, and charitable endeavors of our District. From the preceding paragraphs it may be seen that our financial efforts, too, have enjoyed our heavenly Father's bountiful blessings.

We thank the Lord for His goodness during the past century, and pray that He would continue "to pour out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it." (Malachi 3:10)



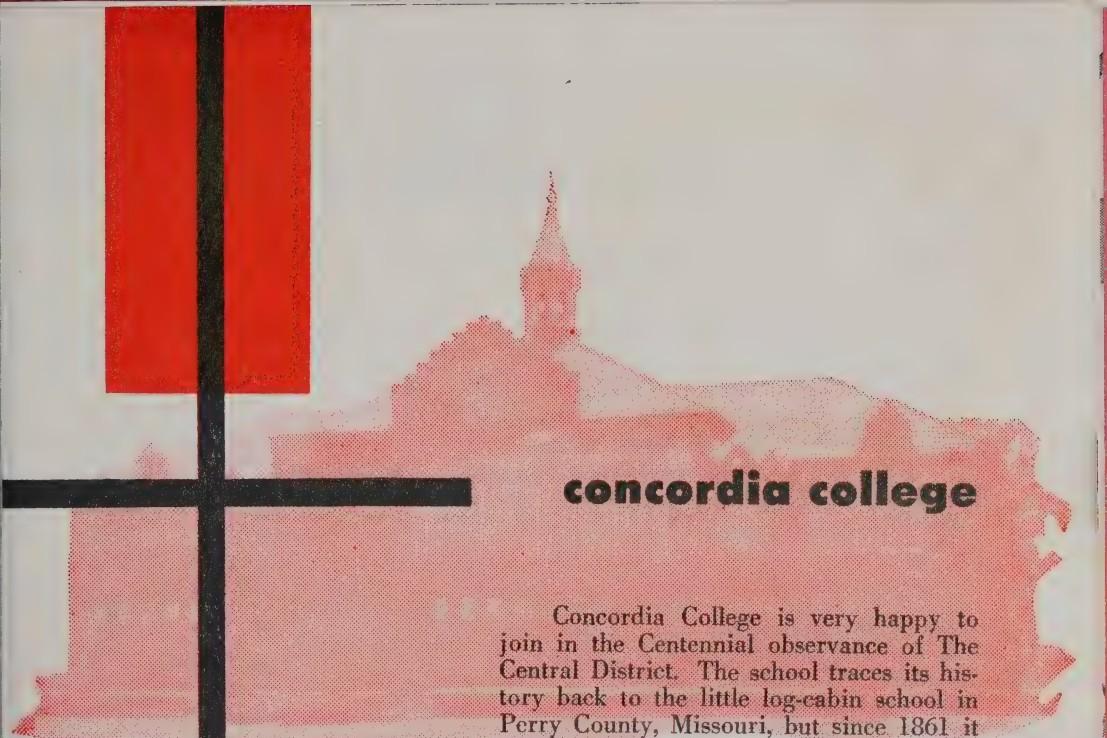
public relations

The Public Relations Department is the newest of the various departments in the Central District. In 1947, when our Synod brought into being a full-fledged Synodical Department of Public Relations, this department encouraged all the districts of Synod to establish similar departments. In consequence, the president of The Central District, in January, 1952, appointed the Rev. E. H. Albers, Fort Wayne, Indiana, then chairman of the District Press Committee, as chairman of the District Department of Public Relations, with instructions to organize such a department. The Rev. R. F. Rehmer, Kent, Ohio, and Mr. Norman Widenhofer, Fort Wayne, Indiana, were appointed as committee members.

This committee then set up an organizational structure and recommended it to the 1952 District Convention for adoption. It provided that the Public Relations Department assume the duties and functions formerly assigned to the District Press Committee, the Legislative Committee, the Lodge Information Committee, and the Public Relations Committee. In order to coordinate the work of this department with that of the Editor of the *Lutheran Witness* Supplement, the editor of the Supplement was made an ex officio member of the executive committee of the Department of Public Relations.

The purposes of the department are as follows: to serve as an effective means to get the public to identify our church with our message, namely, the Gospel of Jesus Christ; to overcome prejudice or misunderstanding in the mind of the public and to gain its good will; to answer attacks on the church in such a way that Christ may at all times be glorified; to alert the congregations of the District to legislation unfavorable or detrimental to the church, and, if possible, to prevent enactment of such legislation through proper protests; to promote by suggestion and concrete action good public relations programs on the local or congregational level.

Representatives for the department have been appointed in every population center. These representatives are kept informed, both by Synod's department and the District department, of all important developments in our church. These men have done an excellent job in keeping the work of the church and the message of the Gospel of Christ before the public, through newspapers, radio, television, and other media of mass communication.



concordia college

Concordia College is very happy to join in the Centennial observance of The Central District. The school traces its history back to the little log-cabin school in Perry County, Missouri, but since 1861 it has been intimately associated with The Central District. Prior to the transfer of Concordia College to Fort Wayne, two other schools for the training of professional workers for the Church had been located here. These are now represented by Concordia Seminary at Springfield, Illinois, and by Concordia Teachers College at River Forest, Illinois.

For years Concordia College has served as a focal point for many Lutheran activities and has readily made its facilities and services available to various groups. A majority of The Central District conventions have been held on its campus, and since 1921 they have all been held here.

The college has been of particular service to the area and to the Church-at-large through its training of future pastors and teachers. A high percentage of its men and women students come from The Central District. The teacher-training program for women was inaugurated to help alleviate the critical shortage of teachers for elementary parish schools.

The present educational program is limited to the junior college level. Plans are being made for the establishment of Concordia Senior College on a new campus in Fort Wayne. This school will have added importance since all of Synod's junior college graduates will take the junior and senior college years here.

The Martha Society, the ladies' auxiliary of Concordia College, receives much of its support from ladies of The Central District. The organization recently set aside \$8,000 toward the purchase of equipment for the Student Health Center on the new Concordia Senior College campus.

By the Grace of God, Concordia College has been privileged to have a part in the continued growth of The Central District.

lutheran high school

From 1916 until 1935, Lutherans of Fort Wayne maintained Luther Institute, a two-year secondary school with commercial and academic courses. When the economic depression of the thirties forced this school to be discontinued, Fort Wayne Lutherans still felt the need of continuing the program of Christian education provided in the elementary schools with a full four-year Lutheran high school. In June of 1935 these Fort Wayne Lutherans petitioned the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod at its Cleveland Convention for permission to use the facilities of Concordia College for the establishment of such a Lutheran high school.

Beginning with an enrollment of 78 students and 3 full-time instructors under the direction of Concordia College, Concordia Lutheran High School has grown to an enrollment of 430 students and 19 full-time staff members in 1954, entirely independent of its parent, Concordia College.

With the calling of its first principal, Herbert F. Birkman, in March of 1944, and the synodical resolution of 1947 advocating the separation of the curriculum from that of the college, the first steps toward the eventual independence of the two schools were effected. After using the facilities of Concordia College for 17 years, the Fort Wayne Lutheran Association for Secondary Education opened the doors of its new \$500,000 building on the Maumee-Anthony corner of Concordia College campus.

As an independent institution, offering a full program of curricular and extra-curricular activities, Concordia Lutheran High is fully accredited with the Indiana Department of Education, and was accepted into membership of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in March, 1954.

The urgent need for a means of conserving the youth of the church for eternity was a great motivating force that brought the Lutheran High School of Cleveland into being. Pastors, teachers, and laymen all cooperated to establish the high school in 1948, which today has an enrollment of 475 students taught by a faculty of twenty-five teachers, and which is supported by forty-eight congregations.

Added burdens to congregations that result from supporting the high school become secondary when the objectives of the school are carefully considered. To impart to the teenagers a growing knowledge of the grace of God in Christ Jesus, their Savior, and His subsequent gracious will, tending to their sanctification is the overpowering purpose of the school. Scriptural knowledge and understanding encourages a complete and harmonious development of the students' capabilities of body and soul for the service of God and his fellowman in home, church, and state.

The Cleveland Lutheran High School is fully accredited in the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. A complete academic program provides the student with an opportunity to prepare for college entrance or a career in the business world. A general course is also available. A thorough guidance program provides for individual attention to the problems of the students.

God has wrought a wonderful work; we pray for His abiding grace.

V

Valparaiso

Valparaiso University is an integral part of The Central District. The members of the University are happy to join in gratitude to the Lord of the Church for a hundred years of divine benediction upon the work of our brethren in the District.

Almost all the men—clerical and lay—who were responsible for the rebirth of the University into the Lutheran Church in 1925 were members of The Central District. The University will always gratefully remember such giants as Miller, Baur, Schutes, Wehrenberg, Dickmeyer, Lankenau and many others who saw the vision of a Lutheran university and devoted themselves to the realization of that vision.

Approximately one-third of the students of the University come from The Central District. More than any other part of Synod, Central District Lutherans have given the University financial and moral support for three decades.

It is evident, too, that the University serves The Central District directly and effectively. Our faculty lectures and preaches more in our own District than in any other.

The ties which bind the University to The Central District are many and strong. It is our hope and prayer that these bonds will continue to keep both our District and our University loyal to the Church of the Reformation.

The Central District has been known as one of the most effective parts of our Synod, in education, missions, and stewardship. We pray that this same devoted spirit will characterize the work of the District in the years ahead. Valparaiso University hopes to serve the District and the Church by training lay leaders who hope to build the Lutheran Church of tomorrow.

Lutheran deaconess association

Deaconess education began with one student in Fort Wayne in 1919—this through the challenge of Pastor F. W. Herzberger and the motivation of Pastor Phillip Wambsganss. In 1943 deaconess education was transferred to Valparaiso University. The number of students has risen to 52.

Deaconesses have a glowing record as missionaries in India, Nigeria, Hong Kong. Our veteran deaconess missionary, Miss Louise Rathke, has served in India since 1926.

Deaconess service has been prominent in eleemosynary institutions. The residents of Bethesda Lutheran Home, Watertown, Wisconsin, and deaf children at our schools for the deaf, Detroit, Michigan, and Mill Neck, New York, have experienced the loving care of our deaconesses. From coast to coast understanding deaconesses minister to residents of homes for aged Lutherans and children in home-finding societies. In city institutional missions, with their mental and correctional institutions and TB sanitoria, our consecrated deaconesses serve. You meet them at health centers at our Concordias, and in hospitals such as the L.I.L. Hospital, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Parish work began early in the deaconess program and is receiving new impetus today, with one-third of our deaconess corps serving in parishes from New York to Portland to Tulsa.

The hearts of these Christian women workers are sympathetic and their hands energetic. Their record is better written on high than on this page.



THE LUTHERAN CHILD WELFARE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA

Organized in 1883 in Indianapolis, the Association is a voluntary Association of Synodical Conference Lutherans providing a state-wide service of institutional and foster home care to dependent, neglected, and emotionally disturbed children. A well-rounded program of social case work with a staff of trained workers also gives counsel to unwed mothers, and plans adoption for children requiring such service.

In 1952, Lutheran Social Services, Inc., of Fort Wayne became an autonomous agency providing family counselling and foster home services for Lutherans of Allen County.

Both agencies have an excellent relationship with the Community Chests of Indianapolis and Fort Wayne, respectively, and share extensively in community organization and planning.

In recent years the Association has sought to develop its program according to the best knowledge in the field of child care and has gained an excellent reputation throughout Indiana.

The present home, built in 1892, is licensed by the State of Indiana for the care of 39 children. Under the chairmanship of Henry F. Schricker, former governor of Indiana, a fund-raising appeal is being conducted in the churches of Indiana and Kentucky for the erection of modern buildings in a residential community of Indianapolis. The new buildings, to be ready for occupancy by the fall of 1955, will have a capacity of 60 children in residence. The number of children that can be cared for in foster homes is not limited.

LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF OHIO

"When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up." (Psalm 27:10)

Central District Lutherans have always assumed the responsibility of caring for neglected children. Written records show that many children in Ohio received aid during the years between 1887 and 1943. Among the pioneers in this work are Pastors Martin Ilse, Sr., F. W. Loose, R. H. Schroeder, and Mrs. E. G. Schwachenwald.

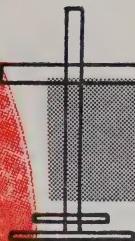
The Lutheran Children's Aid Society of Ohio received its charter in 1903. To carry on the work more effectively with skilled social workers, the agency was reorganized in 1943. Mrs. Mary Margaret Sumner became the first executive secretary and case worker. The agency operates from its own building at 4106 Franklin Blvd., Cleveland, acquired in 1950. In 1952 Board membership was given to all synods in Ohio. Its work comprises four main services, conducted in a spirit of Christian dedication:

1. Giving advice and help to parents, and placement of children in *Christian Foster Homes*;
2. Placing children in *Adoptive Homes*, when this is requested by the parents;
3. Providing special aid to *Disturbed Children*;
4. Offering confidential advice and help to *Unwed Mothers*.

Last year 169 children were helped, 53 were placed for adoption, and 79 unwed mothers were given counsel. In 11 years 2,200 children have been served. The budget for 1954 is \$104,000.

Truly this has been a century of growth by the Grace of God. The second century ahead brings a second challenge.

FORT WAYNE



lutheran hospitals

The statue entitled "The Great Physician," which adorns the spacious lawn in front of the Fort Wayne Lutheran Hospital, symbolizes the spirit which prompted the founding and maintaining of this institution of healing. It is a monument to the living faith of Fort Wayne area Lutherans affiliated with The Central District.

Having had a humble beginning in 1904, when the Ninde property was purchased and the old homestead converted into a 25-bed hospital, it has experienced a marvelous growth in patronage, making additional expansions imperative. These included new wings in 1906, and in 1928, the purchase of the adjoining Alden property and changing the homestead into a nurses' home, the erection of a modern nurses' residence, and the present expansion project including another wing. When completed, the hospital will have a bed capacity of 400, with additional rooms for offices, a chapel, dining room, operating rooms, and rooms for clinical and therapeutic purposes.

The hospital enjoys the good will of the Fort Wayne populace and of many people living in the vicinity of the city. It has attracted eminent physicians and surgeons, who enhance its prestige by serving on its medical staff. The institution, as well as the school of nursing which it conducts, are fully-accredited by federal and state hospital accreditation associations.

Fort Wayne Lutheran Hospital has participated in one-half of The Central District's "Century of Growth by the Grace of God."

CLEVELAND

The Lutheran Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio, was begun over 60 years ago through the bequest of \$4,000 by Mrs. Catherine L. Schierbaum. A conference of delegates from the Lutheran churches decided that a hospital was the urgent need for the rapidly growing city. From the very first the hospital has had the broader purpose of expressing "the church's concern for the welfare of our fellow man."

The Lutheran Hospital received its state charter and opened in October of 1896, with nine churches incorporating as a Lutheran Hospital Association. Probably few of those who made the decision to found a hospital knew that they were building an institution which would be a living symbol of their faith.

The new hospital grew rapidly. Additional buildings were erected in 1922, 1938, 1941, and 1949. The total bed capacity at the present time is 237. Membership in the Hospital Association has grown from 9 congregations to 31.

In 1898 the Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing was established. In 1912 the three year course was started and in 1916 the school became accredited under the Ohio State Registration Law.

The Lutheran Hospital is now engaged in a campaign for capital funds for \$1,250,000 for new construction. This should bring its total bed capacity to 375.



INSTITUTIONAL MISSION WORK

At the time of the organization of The Central District, the founders were concerned about enlarging the tents of God within their midst. Eagerness to win immortal souls for the Master gave them the impetus to launch out into various phases of mission work. The Lord blessed their efforts abundantly so that our Centennial motto can be, "A Century of Growth By the Grace of God."

The Lord's commission "Go ye" was foremost in the minds of our founders. Their efforts were centered especially in home mission work. The home mission work was divided into organizing preaching stations and congregations, and, in the course of time, the ministry to the handicapped people in institutions was developed. Ministering to the souls of the sick is an urgent mission of the Church. Among the handicapped people in institutions the Church's responsibility is first, serving the members of our Lutheran Church with the Word and Sacraments; second, reclaiming the lost and erring; third, winning souls for Christ from the masses of the unchurched.

Helping a soul to become reconciled with God before closing his eyes in death is the task of the institutional ministry. On the Day of Judgment thousands of souls who were brought to Christ through this urgent missionary effort will be praising God.

MISSIONS TO THE DEAF

Missions to the Deaf within The Central District were begun over 50 years ago in Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, and elsewhere by the sainted Rev. A. Boll. Succeeding him, the Revs. O. Schroeder, N. Borchardt, E. Baker, and Wm. Gielow established many missions to the deaf in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. At the present time, the Rev. T. Frederking of Cleveland and the Rev. D. Simon of Columbus serve the deaf in Ohio, while the Rev. M. Kosche of Indianapolis and the Rev. E. Scheibert of Chicago serve in cities of Indiana and Kentucky.

In our District our missionaries serve about 800 baptized deaf, 300 communicants, and 100 deaf children in Sunday Schools. There are three churches for the deaf in Cleveland, Columbus, and Indianapolis. But the work for the deaf in The Central District is only a small part of our national work. Throughout the nation there are 36 missionaries to the deaf who serve over 10,000 souls, and list over 4000 communicants, 1600 deaf children in church-schools, and 21 chapels for the deaf. Our Synod supports this work to the amount of \$160,000, while the deaf themselves raise annually over \$70,000 for home-purposes and for Synod's Budget.

By the oral and manual methods the blessed Gospel of Jesus and the truths of the Bible are brought to thousands of deaf people, to the salvation and blessing of many immortal souls purchased by the precious blood of our Savior. May we often remember this difficult but blessed work in our prayers.

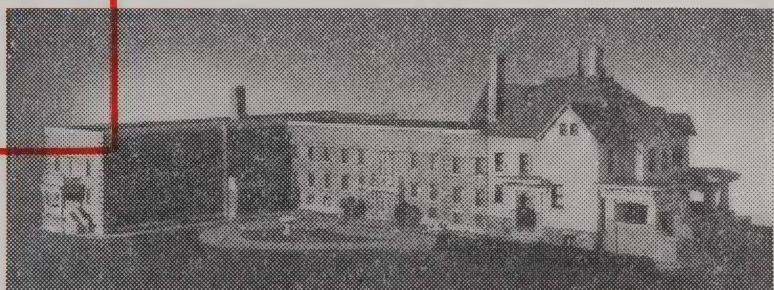
THE LUTHERAN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME

The Lutheran Old People's Home, Incorporated, located in Kendallville, Indiana, has participated with the Central District in "A Century of Growth, by the Grace of God."

Approved by the District in June, 1927, the permanent organization took place November 11, 1928, with election of the following Board of Directors:

The Rev. Wm. E. Moll, Pres.	Mr. August E. Becker
The Rev. Philip Wambsganss, Vice-Pres.	Mr. E. C. Schepper
The Rev. Bruno Poch, Sec'y	Mr. R. J. Rehwinkel
Mr. Wm. Pape, Treasurer	Mr. F. Wiegmann
	Mr. E. C. Gallmeier

old
people's
home



Articles of Incorporation were filed June 24, 1932. The first resident, received on November 17, 1931, lived in the Home for 18 years, 9 months, 24 days. Of the 209 residents received to date, 92 still reside in the Home. The original capacity of 7 in 1931 was increased to 17 in 1937, to 36 in 1940, to 45 in 1944, to 52 in 1947, and to 90 in 1951. The Executive Secretary's dwelling was acquired in 1948.

The primary purpose of the home is to provide Christian environment and spiritual care in addition to food, clothing, and shelter for the aged.

THE LUTHERAN HOME FOR THE AGED WESTLAKE, OHIO

God has been good to our Lutheran Home for the Aged in Ohio, located at Westlake, near Cleveland. By His Grace, the Home has been able to expand its services to our aging fellow-Christians through the years.

In 1932 an association of congregations was formed to concern itself with the care of our aging fellow Lutherans. Four years later the first resident was admitted to the frame dwelling which had been acquired the year previously. A new building was dedicated in 1939, and additions were made in 1951. Capacity has grown from an original six residents to 43 today who live in cheerful, comfortable surroundings, enjoying spiritual and social activities.

Our aging fellow Lutherans have increased along with the steep rise of the aged in the nation—almost 10% of Ohio's population is 65 or over. Our purpose is to meet their need—a "Home for the homeless," where lonely people in their sunset years can await God's call in a place built and guided by His hand.

A waiting list of 25 today is a harbinger of future growth. Indeed, the Home hopes to provide fuller service by carrying its work to the aged who need it with the all-pervading spirit of Jesus Christ.

DIRECTORY OF CONGREGATIONS OF CENTRAL DISTRICT

City	Congregation	Date of Organization	City	Congregation	Date of Organization
INDIANA					
Alexandria	Our Savior	1925	Fort Wayne	Bethlehem Sub.	1898
Anderson	Christ	1903	Fort Wayne	Concordia	1900
Arcadia	Emmanuel	1852	Fort Wayne	Emanuel (Soest)	1845
Auburn	Trinity	1871	Fort Wayne	Emmaus	1900
Aurora	St. John	1860	Fort Wayne	Emmanuel	1867
Austin	Bethel	1936	Fort Wayne	Good Shepherd	1950
Avilla	Immanuel	1844	Fort Wayne	Gloria Dei	1945
Bedford	Calvary	1931	Fort Wayne	Holy Cross	1946
Black Oak	Faith	1943	Fort Wayne	Martini	1853
Bloomington	University	1930	Fort Wayne	Mt. Calvary	1929
Boswell	Zion	1918	Fort Wayne	Peace	1946
Brazil	St. Paul	1876	Fort Wayne	St. Paul	1837
Bremen	St. Paul	1846	Fort Wayne	St. Peter (Goeglein)	1855
Bristow	Grace	1894	Fort Wayne	Trinity	1895
Brownstown	St. Peter	1856	Fort Wayne	Trinity Sub.	1853
Brownstown	St. Paul	1856	Fort Wayne	Zion	1883
Cedar Lake	Hope	1947	Fort Wayne	Garrett	1895
Columbia City	Zion	1890	Gary	Good Shepherd	1945
Columbus	St. Peter	1858	Gary	Immanuel	1937
Columbus	St. Paul	1848	Gary	Our Savior	1950
Connersville	Bethany	1946	Gary	St. John	1870
Corunna	Zion	1851	Gary	Trinity	1908
Cross Plains	St. Paul	1851	Goodland	Trinity	1873
Crown Point	Trinity	1868	Greensburg	Holy Trinity	1935
Decatur	Immanuel	1858	Hamlet	Immanuel (Tracy)	1875
Decatur	St. John (Bingen)	1845	Hamlet	St. Matthew	1885
Decatur	St. Paul (Preble)	1872	Hammond	Concordia	1916
Decatur	St. Peter	1845	Hammond	St. John	1889
Decatur	Zion	1901	Hammond	St. Paul	1882
Decatur	Zion (Friedheim)	1838	Hanna	First	1891
Denham	St. Paul	1873	Hobart	Trinity	1873
Dillsboro	Trinity	1903	Huntington	St. Peter	1849
Dubois	Immanuel	1858	Independence Hill	Trinity Memorial	1940
East Chicago	St. Paul	1904	Indianapolis	Calvary	1931
East Gary	Redeemer	1943	Indianapolis	Christ	1947
Elberfeld	Zion	1859	Indianapolis	Emmaus	1903
Elkhart	Trinity	1874	Indianapolis	Grace	1920
Evanston	St. John	1850	Indianapolis	Our Savior	1942
Evansville	Concordia	1938	Indianapolis	St. John	1852
Evansville	Grace	1937	Indianapolis	St. Paul	1842
Evansville	Good Shepherd	1952	Indianapolis	St. Peter	1896
Evansville	Immanuel	1854	Indianapolis	Trinity	1875
Evansville	Redeemer	1928	Jonesville	Deaf Field
Evansville	St. Paul	1887	Jonesville	St. John (White Creek)	1840
Evansville	Trinity	1841	Jonesville	St. Paul	1877
Evansville	Trinity (Darmstadt)	1847	Kendallville	St. John	1860
Farmers Retreat	St. John	1843	Knox	Our Redeemer	1941
Fort Wayne	Bethlehem	1926			

City	Congregation	Date of Organization	City	Congregation	Date of Organization			
INDIANA								
Kokomo	Redeemer	1918	Wanatah	St. John	1876			
Kokomo	Zion	1871	Warsaw	Redeemer	1937			
Kouts	St. Paul	1880	Waymansville	St. Peter	1871			
LaCrosse	St. John	1906	Weddleville	Mission	1942			
Lafayette	St. James	1850	West Lafayette	Redeemer	1953			
Lanesville	St. John	1846	West Lafayette	University	1945			
LaPorte	St. John	1857	Westville	Trinity	1887			
Lawrenceburg	Bethlehem	1937	Whiting	St. John	1891			
Leesville	Emmanuel	1942	Winamac	St. Luke	1944			
Logansport	St. James	1848	Woodburn	Christ	1898			
Lowell	Trinity	1926	Woodburn	Zion	1888			
Marion	St. James	1950	Woodland	St. Paul	1851			
McCool	St. Peter	1882	KENTUCKY					
Medaryville	St. Mark	1876	Ashland	St. Paul	1866			
Medora	Good Shepherd	1942	Covington	Bethany	1934			
Michigan City	Immanuel	1904	Henderson	Trinity	1927			
Mishawaka	St. Peter	1847	Lexington	St. John	1929			
Monroeville	St. John	1849	Louisville	Concordia	1878			
Muncie	Grace	1938	Louisville	Our Savior	1942			
New Albany	Grace	1927	Louisville	Pilgrim	1930			
New Haven	Emanuel	1858	Louisville	Redeemer	1888			
New Haven	St. Paul	1881	Louisville	St. James	1948			
New Palestine	Zion	1853	Maysville	Trinity	1930			
Noblesville	Christ	1937	Ottenheim	Immanuel	1929			
North Judson	St. Peter	1872	OHIO					
North Vernon	St. John	1876	Akron	Hope (Portage Lakes)	1951			
Ossian	Bethlehem	1897	Akron	Zion	1854			
Otis	St. Paul	1873	Amherst	St. Paul	1875			
Peru	St. John	1858	Amlin	St. John	1855			
Plymouth	Calvary	1934	Antwerp	Calvary	1942			
Porter	St. Paul	1887	Archbold	St. James	1846			
Rensselaer	St. Luke	1947	Berea	St. John	1890			
Rensselaer	St. John (Parr)	1890	Canton	Our Savior	1932			
Reynolds	St. James	1861	Chagrin Falls	Valley	1938			
Rochester	St. John	1926	Chillicothe	Our Savior	1953			
Seymour	Immanuel	1870	Cincinnati	Concordia	1849			
Seymour	Emanuel (Dudley-town)	1857	Cincinnati	Grace	1915			
Seymour	St. John	1840	Cincinnati	Immanuel	1926			
South Bend	Emmaus	1923	Cincinnati	Redeemer	1922			
South Bend	Our Redeemer	1928	Cincinnati	St. Paul	1868			
South Bend	St. Paul	1878	Cincinnati	Trinity	1850			
South Whitley	St. John	1847	Cincinnati	Zion	1951			
Sparksville	Calvary	1942	Cleveland	Bethany (Parma)	1929			
Tell City	Emmanuel	1951	Cleveland	Bethel (Willo-wick)	1948			
Terre Haute	Immanuel	1858	Cleveland	Bethlehem	1901			
Tipton	Emanuel	1896	Cleveland	(Euclid)				
Vallonia	Trinity	1874	Cleveland	Bethlehem				
Valparaiso	Immanuel	1864	Cleveland	(Parma)	1904			
Vincennes	St. John	1859	Cleveland	Christ	1890			
Vincennes	St. Peter	1869						
Wabash	Zion	1947						

City	Congregation	Date of Organization	City	Congregation	Date of Organization
OHIO					
Cleveland	Concordia	1914	Lima	Immanuel	1911
Cleveland	Deaf Field	Linton	Trinity	1953
Cleveland	Good Shepherd	1949	Logan	Trinity	1881
Cleveland	Gospel Center	1937	Lorain	Zion	1900
Cleveland	Immanuel	1880	Mantua	Christ	1953
Cleveland	Mount Calvary	1924	Maple Heights	Zion	1880
Cleveland	Mount Hope	1940	Marysville	St. John	1838
Cleveland	Our Savior (Mayfield Heights)	1947	Mentor	Faith	1952
Cleveland	St. James	1934	Milford Center	St. Paul (Chuckery)	1893
Cleveland	St. John (Cable Avenue)	1878	Mount Hope	St. John	1842
Cleveland	St. John (Nottingham Station)	1890	Napoleon	St. Paul	1856
Cleveland	St. Luke	1895	Napoleon	St. Paul (Flatrock)	1851
Cleveland	St. Mark	1897	Napoleon	St. John	1869
Cleveland	St. Matthew	1884	Napoleon	St. Peter (Florida)	1875
Cleveland	St. Paul	1880	Ohio City	St. Thomas	1847
Cleveland	St. Philip	1926	Painesville	Zion	1893
Cleveland	Trinity	1853	Pomeroy	Trinity	1844
Cleveland	Zion	1843	Ridgeville Corners	Zion	1904
Cleveland Hts.	Gethsemane	1927	Rocky River	St. Thomas	1945
Columbus	Concordia	1929	Schumm	Zion	1846
Columbus	Deaf Field	Shaker Heights	St. Peter	1883
Columbus	St. James	1847	Sherwood	St. John	1859
Columbus	Student Center	1949	South Euclid	St. John	1853
Columbus	Zion	1882	Stryker	St. John	1859
Convoy	St. Paul	1920	Sugar Grove	Trinity	1839
Convoy	St. John	1847	Toledo	Concordia	1933
Cuyahoga Falls	Redeemer	1918	Toledo	Gloria Dei	1950
Dayton	Concordia	1926	Toledo	Immanuel	1888
Dayton	Mt. Calvary	1951	Toledo	St. Philip	1949
Defiance	St. John	1851	Toledo	Trinity	1874
Defiance	St. Stephen	1853	Valley City	St. Paul	1846
Delta	Trinity	1903	Van Wert	Emmanuel	1870
Deshler	Peace	1885	Wapakoneta	St. John	1848
Edgerton	Zion	1846	Warren	Trinity	1945
Elmore	Trinity	1865	Wauseon	Emmaus	1913
Elyria	St. John	1852	Wauseon	St. Luke	1910
Euclid	Shore Haven	1927	Westlake	St. Paul	1858
Garfield Hts.	St. John	1854	Willoughby	Trinity	1926
Geneva	St. John	1915	Worthington	Worthington	1949
Hamilton	Immanuel	1896	Youngstown	Immanuel	1883
Hamler	Immanuel	1896	Youngstown	Redeemer	1949
Hebron	Trinity	1897	Youngstown	St. Mark	1927
Holgate	St. John	1875	Youngstown	Victory	1952
Independence	St. John	1909	Zanesville	Trinity	1844
Kent	Faith	1933	WEST VIRGINIA		
Lakewood	St. Paul	1905	Huntington	Our Redeemer	1952
Lakewood	Pilgrim	1914	Parkersburg	St. Paul	1887
Lancaster	Emanuel	1847	South Charleston	Redeemer	1953
Liberty Center	St. Paul	1932			

CENTRAL DISTRICT CENTENNIAL HYMN

Lord, we praise Thy glorious name;
Lord, we come with thanks before Thee;
Through the endless years the same —
All Thy children shall adore Thee.
As our fathers, so shall we
Sing Thy praise eternally.

Thou hast kept our *homes* secure,
Safe from dangers threat'ning 'round us —
Steadfast, stalwart, firm, and sure —
When the foe would fain confound us.
Every home by Thee was blest
Where Thou entered in as Guest.

Thou didst guard and keep our *schools*.
There Thy light was ever burning.
There Thy Word fore'er did rule.
There Thy love was ever yearning
Little lambs to lead with care
That Thy bosom they may share.

Thou our *Church* didst shepherds send
Faithfully Thy flock e'er feeding,
Who Thy fold with love did tend,
Ever to green pastures leading.
For Thy goodness all our days,
Lord to Thee we sing our praise.

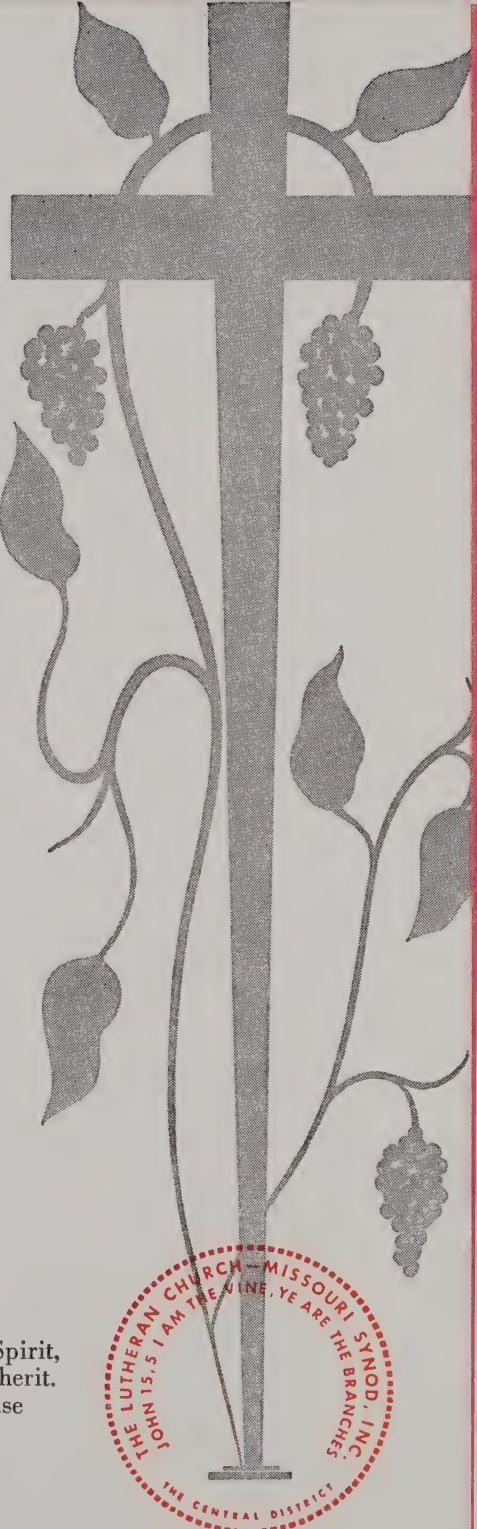
Father, bless us all, we pray.
Guard and keep us Thine forever.
Heav'n and earth shall pass away,
But Thy grace and goodness — never!
Keep us ever in Thy love
Till we reach our home above.

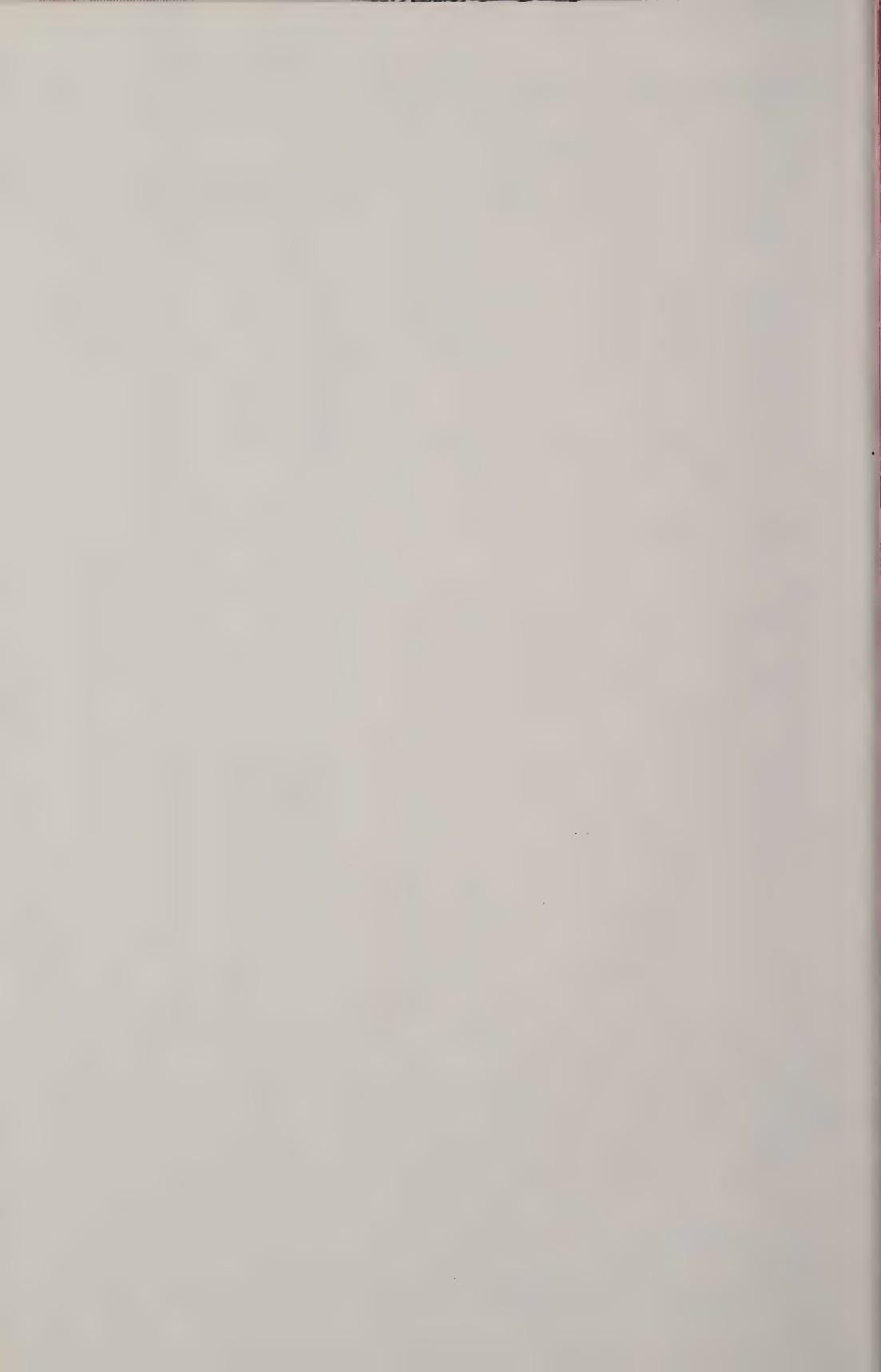
(Tune: "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name")

CENTENNIAL DOXOLOGY

Praise to the Lord, to the Father, the Son and the Spirit,
By Whose great work of love sinners now life can inherit.
Therefore we raise hymns of thanksgiving and praise
To Father, Son and the Spirit.

(Tune: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty")









THE CHURCH - MISSOURI
AS THE VINE, YE ARE THE BRANCHES.

F

4/11/2014

317177 5 32 00



HF GROUP .IN

